

WEST EUROPE

Basque boy dead as police clear crowd

Bilbao, Jan 9.—A boy of 15 was reported killed today as riot police fought with nearly 10,000 demonstrators in the Basque town of Sestao.

Hospital sources said that the youth had been found dead in a street while police dispersed the crowd with smoke bombs, tear gas and rubber bullets. Some demonstrators later said he had fallen when jumping a wall to escape police.

The boy was identified as Juan Manuel Iglesias Sanchez, the only son of a Bilbao factory worker.—Reuter.

Our Madrid Correspondent writes: The Government permitted Spanish parents this weekend to name their children as they see fit.

An order published at the weekend authorized the inscription of the name "in any of the Spanish languages" in official birth records.

Spain has at least four distinct languages and many dialects. The change is important especially in regional nationalist groups, who have long chafed under the central Government's requirement that children should bear names in Castilian.

The Ministry of Information and Tourism ordered the confiscation of the latest issue of the Basque weekly publication *Giz-argia*. No official reason was given, but it is believed that the authorities were annoyed by an article about police actions in the Basque country.

The publisher of another Basque magazine, *Pezua*, is in prison awaiting court-martial on a charge of disrespect to the military. The publisher, Señora Mirentxu Purroy, is accused of having printed a letter from a reader alleging excessive police violence last month.

In Pamplona, the editors of the Basque periodical *Berriak* received another threat, by mail, in an envelope bearing a San Sebastian postmark, from the Basque Communist Group of Adolf Hitler. The right-wing extremists said that the magazine "has been sentenced to an attack on its offices, like the one in San Sebastian". The San Sebastian offices of the magazine were destroyed by agents last month.

In Madrid, a public prosecutor said that he would ask for a sentence of 18 months' imprisonment and a fine of 300,000 pesetas (£2,607) on Señor Enrique Baron, a labour lawyer, on three charges of disrespect to the authorities. The charges are based on remarks made by Señor Baron in an article in the news magazine *Cambio-16*.

New leader for Maltese opposition party

From Our Correspondent, Valletta, Jan 9

Dr Edward Fenech Adami, aged 42, was elected today as leader designate of the Maltese opposition Nationalist Party. He will succeed Dr George Borg Olivier on a day to be decided by the party executive in consultation with the outgoing leader.

Dr Fenech Adami is a law graduate of Malta University, and president of the party's national council and administrative council. He is Shadow Minister of Labour and Social Services and was for seven years editor of the party paper.

Enigma of why Arab terrorist leader risked visit to Paris

From Paul Martin, Paris, Jan 9

Abu Daoud, held tonight in custody by French counter-intelligence, is one of the most daring leaders of Black September, the Palestinian terrorist organization.

His role in the Munich Olympics massacre in 1972 was to map out locations and movements of the Israeli athletes' quarters, arrange for the supply of weapons, and make operational orders for the terrorist kidnapping team.

Originally a lawyer, he rose to new heights after the Munich operation only to be captured four months later when he led a team of guerrillas trying to kidnap members of the Jordanian Government. His "confessions" of Black September secrets under Jordanian interrogation provided the most surprising intelligence to date on the structure and workings of the Palestinian movement's terror wing.

Since the Jordanian débâcle he has played a somewhat diminished role in the power structure of Al Fatah, though he has remained a member of the Revolutionary Council of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). Moreover he has powerful friends in the leadership including Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), the creator of Black September, and leftist leaders in the organization like Naji Aloush and Munir Shafik.

During the Lebanese civil war, Mr Abu Daoud led the militant military campaign that spearheaded the leftist armies' thrust into the hotel district of Beirut.

The presence in Paris of this tall, bulky Arab has raised suspicion over the true worth of the militant campaign that he came to attend.

Mr Abu Daoud, a 35-year-old PLO official of Mauritanian origin had once been temporary head of the PLO office in Paris. But nominally he did not hold high office in the PLO. He was, however, a close aide of Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, and he was said to have been involved in the Arab bookshop.

Reprieve for killers of British couple

Istanbul, Jan 9.—A defence lawyer for two gypsies reprieved yesterday after being sentenced to death for the murder of two British hitchhikers, said today his two clients had already suffered.

Maitre Alain Furbury said: "Death penalty supporters must be assured these two gypsies have suffered."

They were reprieved by President Giscard d'Estaing and their sentences commuted to life imprisonment. The death penalty in France is often commuted.

The men were convicted of murdering Mr Clive Larter, aged 23, and Miss Joyce Kaff, aged 21, his fiancée, with a hedge pruning knife in August, 1975.

M. Furbury's colleague, Maitre Pierre Lamoureux, who also defended the men, said today: "It was the first death sentence I had to deal with. I hope it will be my last."

The gypsies, Joseph Keller, aged 24, and Marcelin Harnech, aged 28, were reprieved after an appeal against their death sentences on charges of murder, rape, indecent assault, theft and receiving, was rejected.—Reuter.



Abu Daoud: A daring leader fallen from grace.

Mr Saleh was the fourth Palestinian guerrilla official to be assassinated in Paris in as many years. The PLO claimed last week that his murder was part of a new Zionist assassination campaign in France aimed at liquidating the movement's European connections.

Whatever importance Mr Saleh may have had, the PLO responded promptly by sending an unexpectedly powerful delegation to mourn him. In the first place it was led by Mr Muhammad Abu Maizer (Abu Hatem), the member of the PLO executive council in charge of foreign relations. Secondly, it included Mr Abu Daoud.

As Youssef Raji Hane, the false identity given in his forged Iraqi passport, Mr Abu Daoud was received with his fellow-mourners at the Quai d'Orsay on Thursday.

It was not until Friday night, after the funeral, that the counter-intelligence men descended on Abu Daoud's hotel, La Résidence, where he was staying. Acting on the red warning circular, put out by the West Germans for his arrest, they took him into custody. He has since been held without any official comment.

Lisbon plans cash aid for private firms

From Richard Wigg, Lisbon, Jan 9

The Socialist Government in Portugal is preparing measures to help private firms to overcome financial difficulties resulting from the country's economic crisis. Dr Antonio Sousa Gomes, the Minister of Economic Coordination, said when he took over temporarily last week that the Ministry of Industry at the weekend.

The Government would first have to be satisfied that the companies could be made economically viable and profitable. A role really useful to the economy.

Many small and medium-sized private firms with inadequate capital before the 1974 revolution, have since been in financial trouble because of the wage "explosion" in 1975, rising costs of raw materials and falling demand. The banks have often had to finance wage bills.

Speaking at the weekend, Dr Gomes emphasised the continuing fundamental role of the state sector. All three state secretaries who worked with Dr Walter Rosa, the Minister of Industry who resigned last week, have been confirmed in their posts.

They are criticized by the Portuguese Confederation of Industry for their alleged left-wing views.

At Dr Gomes's swearing-in ceremony, President Eanes also insisted on a clear definition of the role of private investment, so as to encourage private savings.

"It is not a crime against society to be successful," General Eanes said. "No one should be punished for achieving success within well established rules."

Dr Soares, the Prime Minister, said his Government's economic policies approved overwhelmingly at a meeting of the party's national council of 126 members last night. But the police were called to prevent five left-wing Socialists, who had been suspended after the November party congress, from entering the meeting.

The Government says this could cut Italy's 20 per cent inflation rate by about 6 per cent.

Trade unionists have been at pains to point out this weekend that their tough stance does not mean that negotiations with the Government have broken down. The leaders have managed to withstand calls from some of their members for a general strike and are still prepared to go on talking.

They have also made it clear, however, that in their view the key issue is not incomes but investment policies and job guarantees. This is also the view of the communists, who are keeping a careful eye on the present Government-union talks.

Union leaders say they are quite prepared to accept a voluntary wage freeze on the condition that they are guaranteed their jobs. They also want to see the cost of living. This undertaking satisfies neither the Government, nor the IMF, however, as it leaves what they consider to be the most important issue untouched.

But union leaders rejected his proposal last week that the number of such increases should be reduced from four to two per

Warning by Italian unions on wage rise curbs

From Our Correspondent, Rome, Jan 9

Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Italian Prime Minister, has been warned by trade union leaders that they are not prepared to accept any unilateral Government action to alter the present system of automatic wage increases tied to the rise in the cost of living.

The union attitude was given at a two-day meeting in Rome of some 2,000 local union officials. The delegates passed by a resolution backing the leadership's stand. This was set out by a Socialist, Signor Giorgio Benvenuto, on Friday. "If the Government resorts to a legislative initiative, we shall resort to all forms of mobilizing the workers to fight it," he declared.

Signor Andreotti has said that Italy is unlikely to be granted further loans by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) unless the so-called "escalator" wage increase system is modified.

But union leaders rejected his proposal last week that the number of such increases should be reduced from four to two per

Pope announces reforms for Rome diocese

From Our Correspondent, Rome, Jan 9

The Pope has announced that he intends to appoint a secretary-general in the Vicariate of Rome as part of reforms in his own diocese. The Pope, who is also Bishop of Rome, said his changes were intended to encourage the city's faithful to act against "the dangers of moral and religious decadence."

A shooting in the hotel district of Rome, in which, according to three eyewitnesses, Syrian troops under command of an officer, publicly shot dead a captured pro-Russia Baschist, moments after he had been killed and killed three Syrian soldiers.

A fierce gun battle three days ago between Christian Phalangist gunmen and Syrian soldiers at the northern Lebanese port of Batroun. The Syrians were trying to prevent the Phalangists from using the small harbour in the town to ferry in equipment for a new—and exclusively Christian—airport being built five miles away.

The kidnapping and murder of three leading Muslims from the eastern Lebanese town of Baalbek, all of them members of the well-known Hujerri family. All were killed in the Christian quarter of Beirut, not far from the ruins of the Tel Zaatar refugee camp.

Murders at the Muslim Lebanese Army barracks in west Beirut yesterday, when 140 soldiers from the Baalbek region tried to storm their own barracks to pick up enough weapons to mount a retaliatory raid on a Christian area after the Hujerri killings.

Second lieutenant al-Khatib, the Syrian commander, was killed by the Muslim wing of the Lebanese Army during the civil war, was hurriedly called in by the authorities to pacify the situation.

Christian plans for a right-wing conference to be held in Beirut on January 21, to discuss the "decentralization"—or partition—of Lebanon.

One of the facts of life about which the Lebanese can have few illusions, however, is the degree of supervision that has been introduced into their daily

life. Although neither newspapers in Beirut nor foreign correspondents were allowed to report on the Lebanese national television network, which is under government supervision, last week showed film of government officials at work in the offices of the Syrian General in Beirut. Several passengers on news paper reports with red-felt pens.

In one scene—which may or may not have been intended to induce fear among some sectors of the population, but which will certainly inspire the confidence of foreign bankers who want to know if financial secrecy will be safeguarded in Lebanon—the film showed telephone-tapping equipment in the offices of the central telegraph exchange.

In the past three days, journalists have discovered something far more sinister about the Lebanese Government's newly-acquired, though perfectly legal, control of the press. They have found that almost anything they choose to report on the activities of right-wing Christian leaders like Mr Pierre Gemayel or Mr Camille Chamoun will be passed by the censor: but that almost any reference to Mr Kamel Jumblat of the Leftist Alliance and every reference to the Palestinian "resistance" exercised by government officials.

This is scarcely surprising. Only two of the 20 censors working in Beirut are Muslims. Of the 18 Christians several are known to have worked for the Phalangist party during the civil war, and the head of the censor, Mr Antoine Dahdah, is a personal friend of the right-wing ex-President Frangieh.

When I called at the censor's office last Friday, I immediately recognized the newsworthy official sent to escort me into the building. We had previously met during the war last autumn. He had been one of a number of armed guards in my car on the Beirut front line near the Beirut Museum to check my identity. The censors in Beirut insist

OVERSEAS

Mr Carter's Vice-President to discuss economic issues on his tour of Allied capitals

From Fred Emery, Washington, Jan 9

Mr Walter Mondale will visit London and capitals of other American allies, including Tokyo, in two weeks' time shortly after being sworn in as Mr Carter's Vice-President.

The itinerary is not yet fixed but, beginning in Brussels on January 23, the Vice-President will make a week's round-the-world trip to Tokyo, via London, Paris and Bonn, as Mr Carter's personal emissary.

Italy is the principal partner left out, partly because of time, according to informed sources, and partly because Signor Andreotti, the Italian Prime Minister, visited Washington before Christmas and had a long meeting with Mr Mondale and Mr Cyrus Vance, who is to be the next Secretary of State.

Mr Mondale issued a statement calling his journey a presidential "fact finding and consultation" mission on economic as well as political and security issues. The journey, first announced by Mr Carter yesterday, is intended to be the first step towards organizing the next economic summit of Western leaders.

This is expected to be held in late May or June and Mr Carter said yesterday that he would attend, making it the only exception to his wish to stay at home during his first year in the White House.

London has been discussed as the site of the summit, but the Japanese Government also feels it got its invitation in first, at the close of the last meeting in Puerto Rico, last June.

Mr Carter had faced a choice of attending an "atmospheric" summit immediately after his inauguration, or deferring it until the substantial issues would be better understood in the new Administration, informed sources disclosed.

He resolved the choice by

sending Mr Mondale immediately. This, the same sources say, is an earnest of his wish for the summit to accomplish something solid, more than a continued mood of cooperation.

Mr Mondale is not a "substitute" on the contrary, sending him is intended to show how seriously Mr Carter takes the task of fostering the closest cooperation with the allies.

Unlike the Vice-President, Mr Mondale has already received lavish attention and promotion from Mr Carter. The President-elect vows he will treat him as a true deputy.

Mr Carter said he would be briefed as himself on all policies and secrets, his "top staff person" in managing the Government between White House and Congress.

Mr Carter said he would be telephoning the leaders of the countries Mr Mondale is to visit some time later this week. These, he said, would be his first contacts with foreign leaders since winning the election.

Foreign governments are thus on notice that they are not being fobbed off with a ceremonial second-in-but with a serious political well informed especially on foreign policy matters. He will be conveying to them the new Administration's intentions in foreign policy, which are to include new appointments at the State and Treasury Departments. It will probably also include Mr David Aaron, who is scheduled to be appointed Deputy to Professor Zbigniew Brzezinski on the White House National Security Council Staff. Mr Aaron has served as a foreign and defence policy adviser on Mr Mondale's Senate staff.

Mr Carter said he would be accompanied by a small group of high officials, which are to include new appointments at the State and Treasury Departments. It will probably also include Mr David Aaron, who is scheduled to be appointed Deputy to Professor Zbigniew Brzezinski on the White House National Security Council Staff. Mr Aaron has served as a foreign and defence policy adviser on Mr Mondale's Senate staff.

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Mr Carter in church vote to bar blacks

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington, Jan 9

President-elect Jimmy Carter is reported today to have voted with the all-white congregation of the Baptist church he attends in Plains, Georgia to reject applications to join from three black activists.

The church's "watch committee" reported to the congregation that the applicants did not live in the community and had been uncooperative.

The congregation met in private. Mr Carter was said not to have taken the floor, but to have voted to accept the committee's report.

The leading applicant, the Rev Clennon King, of Albany, Georgia, 40 miles from Plains, protested angrily at the decision and promised to be back next week.

Mr Carter applied to join the all-white church on the eve of the November election. He was denounced as a troublemaker, but his action succeeded in getting the church to repeal its bar against membership for blacks and civil rights workers.

The Rev Bruce Edwards, the church pastor, who favoured the desegregation of the church, said today he was sure that a black applicant from Plains would be accepted.

Muzorewa group rejects Lusaka declaration

From Michael Knipe, Salisbury, Jan 9

Bishop Abel Muzorewa's Rhodesian nationalist faction today dismissed the importance of the apparent decision of the five "front-line" African presidents in Lusaka to give "full political, material and diplomatic support" to the rival Patriotic Front led by Mr Joshua Nkomo and Mr Robert Mugabe.

Mr Gordon Chavunduka, secretary-general of the Muzorewa faction, said: "The presidents do not have the right to tell the seven million people in Rhodesia what they should do and feel. That is the right of the people who live in this country."

Dr Chavunduka said the Muzorewa group would return to the Geneva conference if and when it resumed, regardless of what the "smaller" African nationalist factions decided.

Mandela's nationalist guerrilla who has admitted killing seven people, including three Roman Catholic missionaries, is believed to have escaped from police custody yesterday across the border into Zambia.

Albert Simbo Ncube, aged 26, was apparently taken by police to a Victoria Falls motel in connection with the killing

there in October of a white Rhodesian.

While police have refused to comment, Victoria Falls residents say they heard shots early yesterday and saw an African man clad only in his underwear and shirt running in the direction of the Zambezi river, the border between Rhodesia and Zambia.

Mr Ncube confirmed in Bulawayo magistrates' court on December 31 that he had willingly made statements admitting the killing of seven people, including the former Bishop of Bulawayo, Mr Adolf Schmitt. He was due to appear again on January 14.

Dr Abel Muzorewa, Jan 9.—Hundreds of Rhodesian guerrillas have been killed in Mozambique during clashes between rival factions of the Zimbabwe African National Union (Zanu), the Rev Ndlovu, a nationalist leader, said today.—Reuter.

Mr Political Correspondent writes: Mr Robert McCrindle, Conservative MP for Brentwood and Ongar, who returned from South Africa yesterday, said that after talks with politicians there he was convinced of the chances of success for Mr Ivor Richard's shrewd diplomacy were better than most observers had suggested.

that labels such as "right-wing" or "Christian" or "Muslim" should not be used in reports filed to foreign newspapers, because they say, this gives "an impression of disunity". Politicians must be identified by their party titles or government offices.

The Palestinian news agency Wafa cannot be quoted at all. Wafa is in any case itself subject to censorship and the Communications Ministry have cut off the two telexes which were once operated by the lead Palestinian movements in Beirut.

Strangely, all of Beirut's subscriber trunk dialling system has suddenly broken down: which means that telephone callers abroad must now contact the operator before talking to a subscriber.

How long the foreign press representatives can remain in Beirut under these conditions remains to be seen. Certainly, the Lebanese authorities would be happy to see them depart. When the BBC correspondent in Beirut asked Colonel Dahdah at a press conference last week whether he did not think that the strict censorship would drive journalists out of Lebanon and to Cyprus, Colonel Dahdah replied: "Well, I'm told that the weather is very warm in Cyprus just now."

For the local press the situation is much more serious. An Nahar, the prominent independent Beirut newspaper, is to publish a business newspaper in Paris in order, in the words of one journalist, to "breathe some freedom outside the country". Three Christian journalists, asked not to be identified, have already left for Cyprus to try to find work in Nicosia.

Two employees of the pro-Lebanese newspaper *As Saïr* spent 10 days being closely interrogated in the annex of a Damascus prison after their newspaper's offices were temporarily occupied in Beirut by Syrian troops. They were released only after the president of the Lebanese Press syndicate travelled to Damascus to secure their release. They returned to

Murdoch appointment of two new editors

From Peter Stafford, New York, Jan 9

Mr Rupert Murdoch, the Australian newspaper owner, named new editors this week and for the two main acquisitions he has made recently in New York. He appointed Mr Edwin Bell, formerly of *Time* magazine, and *The New York Times*, to be editor of the *New York Post*, and Mr James Brady, an Australian, editor of *New York magazine*.

The appointments mark the full emergence of Mr Murdoch as a power in the newspaper world of New York after a stormy takeover of the *New York Magazine Company* last week. They also herald what in the view of some commentators, could be a newspaper war in New York.

Under its previous owner Mrs Dorothy Schiff, the *New York Post* was a declining force. It was the city's only evening newspaper, and the survivor of a hard fought newspaper war but its circulation was going down, and the *Daily News*, among others, was thinking of starting a rival.

Now that Mr Murdoch has taken it over, plans of this sort are likely to be shelved, for the time, at least. Mr Murdoch made it clear that he intends to build up the newspaper improving its coverage in several areas, and attracting new readers.

New York has only three morning papers, *The New York Times*, the *Daily News*, and the *Wall Street Journal*, and Mr Murdoch has not ruled out changing the *Post* into a morning paper if the going gets rough. There was nothing commented recently, while *The New York Times* and the *Daily Post* a monopoly in the morning.

The *Daily News*, a tabloid, likely to be the first to feel the effect of the new competition. But even *The New York Times* is not as strong as it was, a recently began an extensive campaign to shore up its position, by changing its layout and publishing new supplements.

Labour MP says Mr Foot is wrong over India

Mr John Lee, Labour MP for Birmingham, Handsworth, yesterday criticized Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the House of Commons, for denouncing part of an article on India in *The Times* by Bernard Levin.

In the article, Mr Levin had written: "The truth is that Mrs Gandhi (the Indian Prime Minister) is going to be a dictator, and is likely to be." Mr Foot described this as "a monstrous lie".

Mr Lee said yesterday: "I do not like Mr Levin, but I feel the balance of the argument is his way."

He added: "The way Mrs Gandhi has continually reacted to every form of criticism suggests that power has gone to her head or that she cannot cope and, in a sense, this is a kind of panic behaviour."

Mr Lee would like Mr Foot to realize that Mrs Gandhi has stifled the press. Levin, I think Mr Foot is wrong and he ought to remember that."

Beirut only last week although no one was able to report this. During their occupation of the newspapers, the Syrians took a large number of documents and files, most relating to Syria, the Palestinians and President Sadat of Egypt.

Syrian troops of the Arab League peace force are, of course, not alone in keeping watch on the population. They are assisted by a large number of Syrian officials who are according to local politicians Syrian policemen.

Airport officials say privately that a number of Egyptians last recently flown into Lebanon and the Palestinians claim that these men are Egyptian secret police sent to watch the Syrians, who are watching the Lebanese. The air force of force might be in a tragically humorous if it was not likely to be true.

Beirut, Jan 9 (Censored). Mr Ahmed Iskandar, the Syrian Information Minister, said in an interview published here today that all "honourable journalists" in Lebanon had advocated the introduction of tough censorship regulations last week.

Mr Iskandar told the Lebanese weekly *Monday* that some journalists here have been "responsible for infractions which were a disgrace to the profession, which among national Lebanese and Arab feelings, which offend Arab deterrent troops who, by all measures of decency and nationalism, should be loved and appreciated."

Formal pre-censorship was imposed on all Lebanese publications and foreign news organizations operating in Lebanon under a government decree published last Monday. The decree stipulates fines of up to 15,000 Lebanese pounds (about £5,000) and three years in jail for those violating the censorship rules.

Mr Iskandar said he imagined the decree had been issued to ensure that Lebanon's reconstruction after 19 months of war would "press ahead in an atmosphere free from incitement, provocation and dissension".—Reuter.



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Martin Gilbert

The biographer whose writings form the stuff of history



Martin Gilbert, author of the biography of Winston Churchill, is seen here in his study.

1922 at a time when the British Government had to decide whether or not to go ahead with the Jewish national home at all, and in the morning in the 30s the real impact was made as far as I was concerned.

He asked himself the question: "What was Churchill doing his days to? He had this enormous capacity for work started very early in the morning and went on late at night; he had a social life, but while he worked, the work was sacrosanct. A ruthless partition of the day. So what was this man working on from 10 in the morning to 10 in the evening to 2.30—working feverishly, frantically. What went on? What were the subjects? And I discovered that one of the things that upset him was the B.B.C. but he was not a minority voice. . . . And finally, no one had then realized the extent to which, after Munich, far from using the so-called 'year gained' to rearm, Chamberlain had adopted a quite different policy and rule of the cabinet committee meetings (and you must remember that a lot of the important decisions were made, not in the cabinet, but in the cabinet committee meetings) and I was very surprised, because I could not remember, and I've read every word of A. J. P. Taylor's history on Churchill and Hitler—either in A. J. P. Taylor or in some 20 or 30 other works that have come out on Churchill and this period, anybody mentioning his persistent, deep, and genuine concern for the persecution of the Jews as the sign that the Nazis were not simply another political movement, right, left, autocratic, liberal, fascist, nationalist—but that there was something driving them forward that was evil.

Evidence is something you play with as a kitten plays with a ball of wool. But as for demanding more evidence, as for searching for evidence, you don't need that. These are the facts on which I am building my arguments—and other facts were not of importance to him. And he, who has written about Churchill a great deal, has always got it wrong. In my view, he's never been curious enough to get to the bottom of things. Once he has formed his view, then he builds a brilliant apparatus on it, but he builds this structure on shifting sands. . . . He himself says that his sources for his major statements, and when you get down to the sources you find the story is so different," Gilbert added. "I do have a further sadness vis-à-vis Taylor: I believe that if you do not have a certain attitude, that sources and painstaking research are not central to the historian's craft, you mislead people because you turn it all into a game. The Second World War becomes a jolly good fun. Hitler becomes something about whom you joke. The conflict of ideologies, which people took very seriously at the time, is dismissed in an epigram or, to make an impact, it is set upon its head."

I asked whether Gilbert's view of history was at all coloured by his being Jewish. He said he did not have a deeply religious background: sometimes to the school, sometimes to the synagogue. The attitude of the school was agnostic and radical: "I remember that one was taught to admire those who were contemptuous of religion. One of the masters read Karl Marx's views on religion, and we were all impressed—here was this great figure, buried only a few minutes' walk from the school, who had said these extraordinary things." Gilbert also spent two years in the army, "which also cuts one off from any organized spiritual background, even from any personal time of reflection." He became interested in Jewish history through his history, not through his Jewishness. "Not so much as an undergraduate, when, as you know, one had a punishing historical schedule with the twice-weekly essay which was, like the army, not conducive to too much reflection; but afterwards, when I began my research into the 30s, stumbling across the Jewish question as a factor of British political history and of international affairs. And then Churchill was quite a revelation to me, because first of all—and this was why I was so struck—Jerusalem for the first time only some five years ago—he had become very involved in the whole question of a Jewish national home. He'd been Colonial Secretary in 1921 and

Times correspondent witnessed. And when Churchill received independent accounts he sent them at once to the editor of *The Times*; he said 'You really must be honest'."

I asked him about his 1960s books on the subject. *The Appeasers* (written with Richard Good) and *The Road to Appeasement* between Britain and Germany between the Wars. What view had he formed of the appeasers? Had he changed it by the time he wrote volume V of the Churchill biography? Gilbert said that when he wrote the earlier books, the modern historians' charter, the Public Record Act of 1967, was not in force. So he was labouring under the restrictions of the 50-year rule, which meant that official papers "the whole vast spectrum of archives from the Cabinet down to the Board of Trade"—were closed for the Munich period. When the first began working for Randolph Churchill he still had to get special permission from the then Lord of the Admiralty to look at 1913 Admiralty papers.

Suddenly, with the Public Record Act, "an enormous goldmine—which makes even the Russian gold-mines pale in comparison"—and in common with all other modern historians he had to start work again. The printed evidence was nothing compared to what was to be opened up on January 1, 1968. "It's what makes Churchill's volumes V very different, much fuller, much more precise, dealing with meetings of which in 1962, 1964 and 1966 when I wrote the three other books, there could be no record—and could, at that point, not be a record for another 20 years, so one had to write something. And when new material came up, people are very reluctant to alter their views formed on the previous lot of material." Gilbert had to change some of his views. "I had not realized the extent to which Neville Chamberlain's Cabinet were prepared to give the Jews the national home at all, and in the morning in the 30s the real impact was made as far as I was concerned."

He asked himself the question: "What was Churchill doing his days to? He had this enormous capacity for work started very early in the morning and went on late at night; he had a social life, but while he worked, the work was sacrosanct. A ruthless partition of the day. So what was this man working on from 10 in the morning to 10 in the evening to 2.30—working feverishly, frantically. What went on? What were the subjects? And I discovered that one of the things that upset him was the B.B.C. but he was not a minority voice. . . . And finally, no one had then realized the extent to which, after Munich, far from using the so-called 'year gained' to rearm, Chamberlain had adopted a quite different policy and rule of the cabinet committee meetings (and you must remember that a lot of the important decisions were made, not in the cabinet, but in the cabinet committee meetings) and I was very surprised, because I could not remember, and I've read every word of A. J. P. Taylor's history on Churchill and Hitler—either in A. J. P. Taylor or in some 20 or 30 other works that have come out on Churchill and this period, anybody mentioning his persistent, deep, and genuine concern for the persecution of the Jews as the sign that the Nazis were not simply another political movement, right, left, autocratic, liberal, fascist, nationalist—but that there was something driving them forward that was evil.

"Indeed it was Duff Cooper—I put this in my book—who was the only Cabinet minister to oppose Chamberlain's policy, the B.B.C. but he was not a minority voice. . . . And finally, no one had then realized the extent to which, after Munich, far from using the so-called 'year gained' to rearm, Chamberlain had adopted a quite different policy and rule of the cabinet committee meetings (and you must remember that a lot of the important decisions were made, not in the cabinet, but in the cabinet committee meetings) and I was very surprised, because I could not remember, and I've read every word of A. J. P. Taylor's history on Churchill and Hitler—either in A. J. P. Taylor or in some 20 or 30 other works that have come out on Churchill and this period, anybody mentioning his persistent, deep, and genuine concern for the persecution of the Jews as the sign that the Nazis were not simply another political movement, right, left, autocratic, liberal, fascist, nationalist—but that there was something driving them forward that was evil.

He put me at my ease by urging me to have a haircut. Then comes the final stage which he finds the most difficult. "One takes off one's tie, puts on the kettle, and settles down at the desk to write. . . . I like to write in longhand in the morning. I write on the right-hand side, and then go through it until, eventually, with the rewriting and the correcting, the thing becomes almost illegible. I have quite a neat handwriting but as the day goes on the paper gets soiled and the handwriting gets worse. I use lots of different inks: I have five or six pens waiting about, and I change nibs on different days."

Gilbert likes to let the history speak for itself, not in mangled paraphrase. "One is in a position which today's biographer of Fox or the younger Pitt or Cromwell can never be in. It's an opportunity which one should take because the next generation will not be able to take it. There's no attempt at subterfuge or turning later recollection into contemporary document: I always say in the book 'Thirty-five years later Macmillan recalled'—so the reader can judge for himself. The things I select for the book are atmospheric, little descriptions of Churchill, little recollections of 30 or 40 years later, those which have still remained vivid. And most of all, I want to write as a single person in the Visitors' Book who was still alive, and it included people who would write back: 'I only went to Chartwell once, but I have a vivid memory of it' and I knew that the one was, it was June 28, 1928: so whatever the recollection was, I could place it on the correct page and part of the page. People like Harold Macmillan and Lord Southey, who knew Churchill very well in that period, and some 60 or 70 people who were his colleagues and his friends and assistants, have enabled a marvellous picture of a personality to emerge—sometimes confirming, sometimes diverging from the picture which the author is assembling."

For similar reasons, he is keen on lavish illustration of the volumes. It's exactly like talking to the people who knew Churchill. If one were able to stumble across Cromwell's photograph album, if photography had been invented; imagine if I could say to you, here are 2,000 photographs of Oliver Cromwell's period as ruler of England. How many would not be brought to light?

I asked Gilbert whether he did not sometimes feel the urge to make history rather than write it. Surely his conversation with history, which he praised so highly in Churchill, would fit him for the life of an active politician? "I'm a professional historian; I'm content with that. It keeps my time very filled. I have always liked teaching, and I like to feel that some of the things I've put together in these books will be of more than antiquarian interest. The economic problems volume V deals with; the problem of India and the Third World; the problem of Appeasement—all are contemporary problems. People who read the books, write to me, say that Churchill's work at the Exchequer seems so relevant today—and when you read it you'll see why, because it deals with all the question of industry unemployment, incentive and social conscience."

Bevis Hillier

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American family returning to New York, July 1977, require very experienced and reliable cook/housekeeper commencing approximately February 10th in London.
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Large country house, fully furnished, requires:
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Self-contained furnished flat in house. 10 rooms, 2 bathrooms. Children welcomed. Willing to learn. Important to have experience.
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With no commitments, available to devote full time to your child, 12 months, 18 months, 2 years, 3 years, 4 years, 5 years, 6 years, 7 years, 8 years, 9 years, 10 years, 11 years, 12 years, 13 years, 14 years, 15 years, 16 years, 17 years, 18 years, 19 years, 20 years, 21 years, 22 years, 23 years, 24 years, 25 years, 26 years, 27 years, 28 years, 29 years, 30 years, 31 years, 32 years, 33 years, 34 years, 35 years, 36 years, 37 years, 38 years, 39 years, 40 years, 41 years, 42 years, 43 years, 44 years, 45 years, 46 years, 47 years, 48 years, 49 years, 50 years, 51 years, 52 years, 53 years, 54 years, 55 years, 56 years, 57 years, 58 years, 59 years, 60 years, 61 years, 62 years, 63 years, 64 years, 65 years, 66 years, 67 years, 68 years, 69 years, 70 years, 71 years, 72 years, 73 years, 74 years, 75 years, 76 years, 77 years, 78 years, 79 years, 80 years, 81 years, 82 years, 83 years, 84 years, 85 years, 86 years, 87 years, 88 years, 89 years, 90 years, 91 years, 92 years, 93 years, 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Local Government, Public & Educational Appointments

Northumberland County Council

COUNTY TREASURER
£10,740-£11,514

Applications are invited from qualified accountants with wide relevant local government experience and proven management ability to succeed the present holder of this appointment who will become the County's Chief Executive on 1 May 1977.

The County Treasurer is responsible for the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs, for the management of the Finance Department, and as a member of the Chief Officers' team will participate in all the corporate activities and work of the team in relation to the Council's work as a whole.

Application forms returnable by 28 January 1977, and further particulars from the Chief Executive, County Hall, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1SA.

Loughborough High School

DIRECT GRANT GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
LOUGHBOROUGH LE11 2DU

Applications are invited for the post of

HEAD

which will become vacant on 31st December, 1977. Applicants should be Honours Graduates of a British University, with teaching experience. Loughborough High School is a Direct Grant School which is becoming independent, with 560 girls in the Upper School, including 45 Weekly Boarders.

Further details may be obtained from The Clerk to the Governors, Loughborough Endowed Schools, 6 Burton Walks, Loughborough, Leics. Tel. (STD 0509) 68821.

ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

GUILDFORD, SURREY

APPOINTMENT OF BURSAR

The School becomes independent in September 1977, and the Governors are seeking a person with proven success in administration and business management. A similar role or career in industry, commerce, public service, or armed services would be relevant. The successful candidate would start work in the next few months.

A full account of the School's circumstances and of the responsibilities of the Bursar may be obtained from the Clerk to the Governors, The Royal Grammar School, High Street, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 3BB.

University of Exeter

Applications are invited for a third Chair of Education, tenable from 28 September 1977. No specific field is prescribed for the Chair; qualifications in curriculum or educational psychology will be of particular interest but applicants with an established reputation in a different aspect of education (for instance, in overseas education) will be given equally serious consideration. The salary will be on the agreed professional range: minimum £8,105, average £9,488 p.a.

Further particulars may be obtained from The Academic Registrar and Secretary, UNIVERSITY OF EXETER, Northcote House, The Queen's Drive, Exeter, EX4 4JL, to whom applications (13 copies, overseas candidates 1 copy) should be forwarded so as to arrive by Friday, 4 February 1977.

Please quote reference 115/3148

DEAN

of the City University Business School

The post, which is open to both men and women, has fallen vacant following the retirement of Mr David Glen, O.B.E., M.A. The salary for the post is within the range for professors, and superannuation is in accordance with the provisions of the Universities Superannuation Scheme.

Further particulars may be obtained from The Academic Registrar, The City University, St. John Street, London EC1V 4PB

Cranfield

Chair in Product Management

The National College of Agricultural Engineering (which is a School of the Cranfield Institute of Technology) intends to appoint a Professor of Product Management who will complement existing areas of work by developing the inter-relationships between industry and agriculture and will develop studies in product planning, market research and market planning.

Further particulars may be obtained in confidence from: Professor B. A. May, HEAD OF THE NATIONAL COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING, SILSOE, BEDFORD, MK45 4AT, TELEPHONE: SILSOE (STD CODE 0528) 80428.

Council for National Academic Awards

APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

A vacancy has arisen for an Assistant Registrar (Education) to be based at the Council's headquarters, 100, Strand, London, W.C.2R.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the development of the Council's administrative and financial services, and will be required to develop the Council's administrative and financial services, and will be required to develop the Council's administrative and financial services.

Applications should be sent to the Secretary, Council for National Academic Awards, 100, Strand, London, W.C.2R.

Further particulars may be obtained in confidence from: The Secretary, Council for National Academic Awards, 100, Strand, London, W.C.2R.

Applications should be sent to the Secretary, Council for National Academic Awards, 100, Strand, London, W.C.2R.

Further particulars may be obtained in confidence from: The Secretary, Council for National Academic Awards, 100, Strand, London, W.C.2R.

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After sixty years of ups and downs, is a labour ministry really necessary?

Today is the sixtieth anniversary of a major development in the Government's relationship with organized labour. On January 10, 1917, the newly-created Ministry of Labour took over from the Board of Trade responsibility for laws relating to employment. The unions had finally obtained "their own" ministry, an objective for which they had been striving for 30 years.

However, the ministry (renamed since 1970 the Department of Employment) has never measured up to the unions' expectations. Its political and administrative role has been constantly undermined while the unions' own influence has expanded independently. Consequently there seems no longer the need for a special "labour" ministry. Like the miners, it should perhaps be pensioned off at 60.

The ministry's creation aroused far less controversy than some of the Department of Employment's recent legislation. The relevant Bill passed the Commons in three days, the Lords in one. Conservative MPs have themselves to thank for the quick passage. They have reached a consensus in the history of the country when it is absolutely necessary to have a Ministry of Labour. Parliamentary approval had been anticipated. Since early December John Rudge, the

20-store general secretary of the Steel Smelters' Union, had been installed in office. He had already ordered the arrest of three militants in Liverpool.

The political purpose of the ministry in 1917 was clear: to bind the Labour Party to the Lloyd George coalition and, after the Somme massacre, to guide Britain towards its first manpower policy. The early arrests confirmed the militants' fears of regimentation; but the labour movement had long wanted its own ministry to coordinate administration of interest to the unions, to be a "national authority for unemployment" and above all to guarantee that at least one Cabinet minister was sympathetic to union aspirations.

Before 1939, the ministry was politically insignificant, despite its responsibility for industrial relations, unemployment and the social services. The rise of the Labour Party and the wartime growth of the unions themselves meant that cabinets had to be ever mindful of labour's interests. The special pleading of a minister of labour was no longer so necessary. The official policy of the fall of the ministry prevented any dramatic achievement in industrial relations. Unemployment policy was predetermined, as ever, by the Treasury. Significant initiatives in social policy (the creation of the Unemployment Assis-

stance Board) and regional policy (the special areas acts) were hived off to semi-independent administrative bodies.

Administrative reputations nevertheless were made at the inter-war Ministry. Its officials were expert in vital if unfashionable areas of policy and their advice was constantly sought. They also enjoyed some notable victories. Working class living standards were successfully defended against Treasury attack. If unemployment pay was reduced by 10 per cent in the public expenditure cuts of 1931, for the married man with two children it had risen in real terms by 240 per cent over the previous 10 years. In 1934, Chamberlain's attempt to condemn the unemployed to a thinly-disguised Poor Law was also defeated.

This expertise was duly rewarded in the Second World War, when allied to the political leadership of Ernest Bevin. A successful manpower policy was the key to Britain's victory and Ministry officials were closely involved in preparing the Beveridge Report and the 1944 Full Employment White Paper, the two documents that were to dominate post-war economic and social policy. Personal recognition came at the end of the war with the appointment of eight officials to the rank of permanent secretary or its equivalent.

In 1945 returned the prob-

lem of what the Ministry's peacetime role should be. Under a Labour Government its political role seemed superfluous, and some general secretaries of the TUC, notably George Woodcock, resented its existence as a buffer between them and the government. With the creation of the NEDC, and later the social contract, this intermediary role was made even more redundant. After the war it had been quickly relieved of its responsibility for social services and regional policy. It was thus left with industrial relations which—at that time—demanded political neutrality. Sir Walter Monckton, the arch-republican minister of the 1950s, refused even to address the Conservative Party conference whilst Minister. The Ministry was suffocating to death.

In the 1960s the Ministry's future, like many other problems, was seriously questioned but only half answered. The Ministry consciously abandoned its neutral stance, seeking to promote positive industrial legislation even when this was not immediately acceptable to employers and unions. Under Heath and then Hare, the Ministry led rather than followed consensus by drawing up such reforms as the Redundancy Payments, Industrial Training and Contracts of Employment Acts. There was, however, a limit to such legislation. Officials wanted to

expand the Ministry by reabsorbing its inner-war responsibilities for social services to form (as in Germany) a Ministry of Labour and Social Services. Instead, for a brief unhappy spell under Barbara Castle, it was given new powers over economic planning.

In the 1970s the Ministry's history has been dominated by attempts to reform industrial relations and by the hiving off to autonomous bodies of its remaining administrative responsibilities. The inclusion of certain clauses in the Industrial Relations Act (like the handling of the 1973 miners' strike) is known to have been against official Ministry advice. The Ministry nevertheless suffered in the backlash. At the TUC's insistence, responsibility for conciliation and arbitration was hived off to ACAS, just as earlier (for administrative reasons) employment, training, health and safety had been dispersed among independent agencies. Policy might gain from the constructive participation of interested parties on these bodies, but the corollary is the reduction of the Department of Employment to a rump, merely monitoring the activities of these agencies and providing a think-tank on productivity and further employment legislation.

Whether at a time of economic retrenchment there is a need for the apparatus of a full ministry to discharge such limited functions must be questioned. Politically the Department may be necessary, as a token that a Conservative Cabinet will not ignore Labour's interests, that a Labour Cabinet will not ignore the trade union wing. Administratively, however, it is less able than ever to coordinate employment policy, let alone the full range of social policies which the social contract has now made the TUC's business. With the independence of ACAS, the Department is no longer able to play its invaluable historic role as a link between Cabinet, Whitehall and grass-root trade union opinion. After helping to pioneer a revolution in the attitudes of the British Civil Service, the Department seems to have served its purpose. The wheel has turned full circle. The unions have become so powerful that they no longer need "their own" ministry. Employment policy, logically, should be administered once again by the Board of Trade or more precisely its successor, the Department of Industry.

Dr Rodney Lowe

The author is a member of the Department of Economics, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh.

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Ocean Island: Britain must do her moral duty

"It seems to me that I am powerless to give the plaintiffs any relief in these matters. . . . But in litigation against the Crown in which the Attorney General is a party I think Judge ought to direct attention to what he considers to be a wrong that he cannot right as he sees it to the Crown to do what is considered to be proper. Accordingly I draw the attention of the Attorney General to the matters of criticism that appear in this judgment, and in particular the two that I have just mentioned."

The Hon. Sir Robert Megarry, Vice-Chancellor, in his judgment on the Banabans' action against the Crown

In their painfully long and expensive lawsuits brought against the British Government and the Phosphate Commissioners, the Banabans, as *The Times* rightly reported on December 4, won "a clear moral victory in court but little money". In essence the issue always was one of morality, not money, since the action taken against the British Government came only after years of pleading by this little community for the restoration to them of their ancestral homeland, Ocean Island.

Call for a fresh start was ignored

In his impeccable judgment, Mr Justice Megarry went to the heart of the matter. In directing the Attorney General's attention to grave breaches in the obligations of past colonial administrations towards the Banabans which his court was unable to remedy, he returned this issue to the political sphere from which the government should never have allowed it to depart in the first place.

In April 1975, accompanied by Mr John Leach (Labour, Hantsworth), I visited the Pacific at the invitation of the Banabans. We found their initially startling claims of ill-treatment at the hands of Britain to be fully justified. We reported to the Secretary of State in full upon our return, and called for immediate talks between the governments of Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and the United Kingdom with a view to wiping the slate clean and making a fresh start.

We recommended that this should be done irrespective of the cases which even then were before the High Court. The joint recommendations we made were ignored. Now, 20 months later, and after the expenditure of legal fees reported to amount to close on a million pounds, the judge has drawn the Government's attention to the moral and political obligation towards this small people of which the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has been aware all along. These had been set out carefully in our joint report, which found wide acceptance throughout the Pacific, Australia and New Zealand, where the issues were well understood.

Consider the Banabans' grievances. Mr Justice Megarry describes the outrageous attempt to persuade them in 1928 to part with land they did not wish to lease for excavation. He condemns the manner in which the resident commissioner, who threatened the destruction of their village and the compulsory acquisition of their land at say old price, actually exercised the duty of prescribing the Banabans' royalties once their land had been compulsorily purchased.

Even greater damage was done to Banaban interests when they were induced in 1947 to part with virtually the remainder of Ocean Island. In disposing of the last two fifths of their homeland they were allowed by the colonial administration no expert advice. As Mr Justice Megarry pointed out in possibly his severest stricture

on Britain's behaviour, the Banabans had at that time recently suffered grievous hardships under the Japanese during the war, had been uprooted from their homeland without being able to return to see what state it was in, were transplanted to an unknown environment in Fiji with a markedly different climate living in temporary, makeshift accommodation and many of them were ill.

In these circumstances, even the adviser appointed to them by the British Government of the day was prohibited from helping them negotiate the disposal of a quarter of a century's phosphate deposits. In short, a small people for whom Britain had a moral responsibility were talked into signing an agreement without any provision for subsequent revision in the light of changing circumstances.

This failure to give our wards the advice which any competent businessman or professional adviser would have given them at the time has resulted in their suffering substantial losses over the years.

The judiciary has now invited the executive to right a wrong and it will be the duty of Parliament to ensure that this is done. True, the running of Britain plans to leave the Pacific very shortly. Such a settlement must be concluded before we part with our power to make decisions. Thus, the time has come for the Government to heed the Banabans' petition for the separation of Ocean Island from the Gilberts Colony, not on the verge of independence, but on the verge of citizenship. Most Banabans are citizens of the United Kingdom and wish therefore to see their homeland back under their own sovereign control and in free association with Fiji. The people and government of Fiji are known to favour this solution, and await Britain's decision with some impatience.

An error that would sour relations

For Britain to disregard the feelings of the largest independent state among the Pacific Islands, to deny the Banabans the right to be their own masters in their ancestral homeland, to allow the separation of Ocean Island, would be a problem unresolved, would be an abdication of responsibility on our part and a grave political error of judgment. It would sour our hitherto excellent relations with Fiji (where we have already witnessed a huge anti-British demonstration and trade union action aimed at British diplomatic communications), and leave a festering wound in a region in which Britain should be leaving with her head high and reputation untarnished.

Only monetary self-interest can influence the Foreign Office and the Treasury to continue to oppose the morally just and politically wise separation of the Banaban homeland from the Gilbert Islands, thus severing a link forged by Britain in 1916 purely for her own administrative and financial convenience. Banaban phosphates, which were sold below world prices to Australia and New Zealand farmers and from which Britain, too, has benefited for three-quarters of a century, are all but exhausted. We have literally consumed Ocean Island. The Government must heed Mr Justice Megarry's unprecedented "moral" and deal generously with the Banabans, both financially and politically. This, indeed, is a moral issue.

Sir Bernard Braine
The author is Conservative MP for Essex, South-East.

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Muddling through will not do for 1977

Survival—that was the name of the political game in 1976. Nationally we survived acute economic pressures, unparalleled since the 1930s. We also managed to live through the Chancellor's equally unpleasant remedies (they would have been rather more successful if the packages had been administered together at the beginning of the year but that's another story). The Government survived the visit and demands of the IMF team, and got what we wanted from them, whatever that was.

The Labour administration also survived. Jim Callaghan, in taking over from Harold Wilson, succeeded to no enviable task. And his continued existence as Prime Minister is a delicately balanced affair when every parliamentary vote depends on a different permutation of coalition or parties and personalities. The Government Whips Office achieves miracles.

As for the Labour Party, we stumbled through the Conference at Blackpool in September without adding to our prestige or credibility with the outside public; we got little joy from the Walsall and Workington by-elections as a result. We gained a new Youth Officer called Bevan, whose

Merxism seemed to be his main qualification for the job and we attracted a voluntary recruitment officer, Tony Kelly, who, after stimulating membership in Newham North-East has now moved, with his membership cards, to Leeds South-East, with likely overnight stays in other constituencies before the year ends.

The essential balance in the Labour Party between left and right—and which attracts the middle-range voter has slipped. Whatever the merits of the arguments currently taking place between the Tories, the IS and the Marxists—one thing is indisputable: without the middle-ground voter Labour will not pick up many trophies, and certainly will not win a general election whether it is in October of this year (the most likely early date) or later. Inexplicably the Tories under Margaret Thatcher have failed to exploit Labour's difficulties.

We survived a nuclear leak at Windscale, which revealed a breakdown in the management reporting system. The general manager of Nuclear Fuels Limited said that such incidents were merely in-house and internal and of no concern to anyone outside the company—not even, apparently, to the Energy Secretary, Tony Benn.

Eric Moonman

But the ordinary member of the public, surrounded by breathtaking insensitivity and poor decision-making in the machinery of local and central government insists on discussing practical issues.

As an MP, on the receiving end of the constituents' letters and visits to my surgery, it is impossible to ignore the constant theme of the majority of complaints, which show that the failures of our society and its systems are avoidable: they are the results of lack of planning, poor management and inadequate communications. Yet the decision-makers apparently do not learn much from their mistakes.

Information about the partial introduction of the child benefit scheme in April is a case in point. Thirteen million leaflets were printed then due to a revised arrangement it was necessary to issue a correction slip, then the position was still unclear, so a second correction had to be added. It is, as my constituents point out, hard enough to find a post office with the original leaflet but

almost impossible to get the two correction slips as well. In the NHS, the situation is a critical factor in the optimum use of scarce resources in the Health Service, as I argued last year when I examined the state of preventive medicine. Since the NHS was established nearly 30 years ago, there has not been a review of the original budget intentions, and services when compared to the increasing new demands, facilities and pressures within the actual sector. Despite the much larger financial allocation today, the personal or specialist staff has barely increased in proportion, and in psychiatric hospitals, the nursing staff are often dangerously understaffed, yet the bureaucracy has grown five-fold.

This Minister must act courageously to ensure an efficient deployment of resources in a way that many of his predecessors have shied away from doing. Britain is at least five years behind the United States in the development of preventive medicine, although with our compact community, health education campaigns aimed at reducing the incidence of disease are more easily paraded easy to mount. Despite all the research that has been done, the DHSS is still hiding behind a verdict of "not proven" so far as dietary education is concerned.

Another case of muddling is the official response to accidents to children. Seventeen per cent of all child admissions to hospital are the result of accident, either on the roads or in their homes. Yet the information about the causes of accidents has been found to be inadequate and misleading.

For example, Britain has the worst casualty rate for child pedestrians in western Europe, but only 38 per cent of primary schools pay really close attention to accident prevention. And the five-week campaign last autumn, in which 880,000 was spent to reduce child casualties, was aimed primarily

at motorists, though this is known to be largely ineffective. Research into road accidents is in the hands of bodies like the Transport and Road Research Laboratory, whose brief does not include basic research approach. The five government departments and the extraordinary number of national organizations concerned with child welfare (300 at the last count) must get together and a national joint committee on accident prevention in childhood. Sweden has had such a committee for many years and its results demonstrate that such an approach is effective.

Battered babies are another group who have suffered through bureaucratic incompetence and failure to respond to demonstrable need. My involvement with the plight of such children began with the tragic death of a three-year-old boy in my constituency, whose parents were sent to prison for neglecting him. My investigations into the case showed that the health services were not working. I had been involved with the child from shortly after his birth, had some responsibility in the matter. That case followed shortly after the Maria Colwell tragedy, and has since been succeeded by the Stephen Meurs and William Brewster deaths, all of which occurred during periods when the relevant authorities had undertaken responsibility for the welfare of these children.

I have had several meetings with the Minister in the Department of Health, and it seems that we are ever hopeful of the establishment of confidential registers but efforts to set up a national register were rejected by the local agencies in whose hands the whole problem of battered babies and children remains. Locally established registers identified nearly 6,000 children at risk within the first year, but the criteria for putting a child's name on the register vary considerably from one local authority area to another, and even the responsibility for maintaining the register does not follow an established pattern, with the health authority taking charge in some places, the senior social service

officials in another, and NSPCC elsewhere.

The death rate of children attacked by their parents is estimated to be two a day. In an increasingly mobile society, potentially dangerous situations, whether in the home or in the street, and this means keeping track across local government boundaries. The Minister is now awaiting the report of the Select Committee on violence in the family, as well as considering whether there is any necessary on the conduct of investigations into cases of non-accidental injury to children to complement the advice being prepared following the report of the Davies Committee on hospital complaints procedure. The Department and the local agencies have certainly come a long way since Maria Colwell died, but the last word has by no means yet been said.

So much for 1976. I doubt if 1977 will be any better. Parliament's responsibility to deal with the intensity of our economic problems and growing unemployment the Government has already committed a major share of its time to devolution for Scotland and Wales. We may ultimately take a charitable view of the transfer of power, but at the moment I'm hard put to it to find ministers who will maintain—in private—that devolution is anything more than a great irrelevance.

If you are inclined to an optimistic turn of mind, then some recent government statements will comfort you: North Sea oil will contribute £2,000m to the balance of payments this year (Benn); in the second half of 1977 everything should be moving into place (Healey); there will be a breakthrough in defeating terrorist activities in Northern Ireland (Mason). Jim Callaghan's references to the Year of the Pendulum show him to be more cautious and correct but he should remind his ministers that the pendulum swings back as well as forth and I should take care not to become hypnotized by its motion.

The author is Labour MP for Basildon.

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Employers There's still time to apply for these two subsidies

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SUBSIDY

For each unemployed young person you take on full-time you can qualify for £10 a week.

This subsidy is available to all employers in the private sector of industry and commerce, as well as the nationalised industries, throughout Great Britain. It is payable during the first 26 weeks of employment.

The unemployed young people you recruit must have been under twenty years on 1 October 1976 and have been registered as unemployed for a continuous period of at least 6 months. They must be offered normal full-time employment to fill a genuine vacancy, and must start work on or before 31 March 1977.

For a leaflet and application forms, contact your local Careers Office, Employment Office or Jobcentre.

Closing date for applications 31 March 1977

TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT SUBSIDY

Closing date for applications has now been extended to 30th April 1977.

Employers in the private sector of industry and commerce throughout Great Britain, who are prepared to defer impending redundancies affecting ten or more full-time workers in an establishment, can qualify for a subsidy of £20 a week for each job maintained. This subsidy may be paid for a maximum of 12 months.

You can obtain a leaflet with full details of the scheme from any Department of Employment Regional Office or your local Unemployment Benefit Office, Employment Office or Jobcentre.

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT DE

The Times Diary

Unworthy of the noble grape

paying for my meals—but it should be noted that I have usually taken three wines, and the last two dishes to test the catering adequately.

A reasonably substantial snack and a single glass of wine would usually be obtainable for £1, and the bars are obvious well used alternatives to over-priced restaurants for those who think pubs are too vulgar. A full meal and decent bottle will cost about £5 per person.

The clientele is often young, and the surroundings are more idiosyncratic and characterful than in the general run of pubs. I prefer wine to beer, but as yet I am afraid that English wine bars do not do justice to the better beverage.

Warming up

The invitation to Thursday's Twelfth Night Party at St Mary's Church, Lambeth, was among the half-dozen most off-putting I have ever received. It is advisable, it read, "to dress warmly and to bring a rug."

It was sound advice, for St Mary's, which adjoins Lambeth Palace and which has been redundant since 1972, has no heating and precious few other

amenities. The purpose of the meeting—for it was in truth more in the nature of a meeting than a party, despite the wine and mince pies—was to propound a possible use for the church, to prevent its being demolished.

There have been several plans for converting it to a useful purpose, but the latest could have more chance of success than the others. A Trust is being formed to raise between £100,000 and £250,000 to turn it into a conference and research centre for gardeners. The inspiration for the scheme is that one of the two remaining tombs in the churchyard is of the John Tradescants, a father and son who were pioneer gardeners of the seventeenth century and who lived in the South Lambeth Road. (The other tomb is of Captain Bligh of the *Boaty*.)

Mea Allan, who has written a book about the Tradescants, explained to me the plan would include planting the churchyard as a Tradescant memorial garden, consisting only of the plants that the Tradescants introduced to Britain. These include the rhododendron, the tulip tree, the lilac (I think I have Tradescant's original lilac in my own garden nearby as well as the rather dull foliage plant, the Tradescantia, named after them).

The chief mover behind the plan is Rosemary Nicholson, who lives over the river in Chelsea and who has gained some notable support. About 150 people braved the cold of the church to attend the meeting, and they seemed confident that the scheme is warming up. Already the Redundant Churches Fund has agreed to restore the medieval tower.

NO
TRESPASSING
AFTER 4 P.M.
CLOSED SAT-SUN
& HOLIDAYS

Today's sign, allowing trespass under strictly controlled conditions, conforms sensibly to the permissive spirit of the age. It was photographed in Marion, Massachusetts, by C. J. Fox of Wimbledon.

Survival

Thursday night's frost had all but cleared from the Brixton allotment before midday, and the ground was in surprisingly good shape for the continuance of the winter digging. So invigorating was the cool sunshine that I cleared away the remaining green broccoli plants to give me more space to dig. They should by rights have been cleared away before Christmas, but there were few incipient heads which might have given another picking had I not decided to uproot them for the sake of my recreation.

The purple broccoli should start producing in a couple of months, but there will be a picking or two of sprouts to side as well as a few cauliflower whose leaves I have been bending over to protect them against the frost. In spite of the fact that the frosts have been more severe than for the past couple of winters, most of my autumn-sown stuff is bearing up rather well.

In particular the winter lettuce, protected only by plastic

netting, has so far proved impervious to the weather. And the Ailsa Craig onions, warmed by their accompanying carpet of weeds, are also surviving well.

Even a late sowing of spinach, which gave me only one picking in the autumn, remains intact, and could be more productive in spring. But I fear that my over-optimistic October sowing of peas may be done for.

With a bang

I fear that the BBC might be taking their rivalry with ITV too seriously. They are advertising in their local papers, the *Action Gazette*, the intention to set up an explosives factory, near Wood Lane.

It is not, the television press office says, as dangerous as it sounds, though the statutory notice in the paper is worded so that it might terrify the most timid residents of Shepherd's Bush. "Our visual effect department is moving," it speaksman read.

He added: "All it is really is a wire cage about eight feet square with one table and a chair. It's a place where properly qualified people can go to mix chemicals when we need a flare for Dr Who, or something like that. There is no question of real explosives being involved."

The perils of telephonic communication are illustrated by an announcement of a forthcoming meeting in Leeds in *Saturday's Morning Star* "Israel Today", it read, "Ben Ramelson reports on his real Communist Congress." Really?

PHS



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RISKING THE DOLLAR

needs no stressing that the state of the United States economy is of critical concern to the rest of the industrial world. The failure of the American recovery to manifest itself with any real vigour last year was the longest single contributory factor in the general depression which the rest of the world has failed as yet to emerge. It has been a constant theme of the Chancellor of the Exchequer that deficit countries, like the United Kingdom, are severely hampered in their struggles to restore equilibrium by the fact that those in a stronger position have not taken sufficient reflationary action to counteract the effects of the Opec oil price rise on the general level of Western industrial activity.

From this point of view there is a danger that the United Kingdom is now in a position where it will be forced to make substantial inflationary reflation a central and vital part of its policy. It had, in its election campaign, been assumed that this would be the case. A major plank in its platform had been the pledge that it would "get America back to work". Much of its criticism of the Ford administration was based on the fact that he was allowing unemployment to rise unnecessarily. As a Democrat and populist, Mr Carter by instinct and political calculation has been concerned with these questions than with inflation and the external worth of the dollar, which are more traditional concerns of bankers, Wall Street and the Republicans.

In the event Mr Carter has

shown a strong degree of caution in his proposals. The total sums involved are somewhat less than had been expected, both in their estimated effect on the economy and in their prospective extra burden on the federal budget deficit. Even more important, the measures that have been announced are to be spread over two years and not concentrated into one. This has the advantage of reducing the economic, while leaving largely intact the political, impact of the package. Such a strategy, however, carries with it the real danger, if the American economy now belatedly picks up fast in 1977, that the new President will consider himself politically committed to a further bout of reflation in his second year, when other considerations might be arguing for greater caution.

Such caution on the part of Mr Carter in deciding the size and shape of his reflationary package will, however, still not be enough to convince those of a monetarist persuasion of the wisdom of what he proposes. Although inflation in the United States is at a lower level than in many less happy countries, it certainly could not be said to be under control, or that inflationary expectations had been anything like fully wrung from the American system. Further, there is some irony in the fact that while the United States has taken a strong, if quiet, position that the British public sector deficit is too high and should be reduced as a condition for IMF loans and sterling balance safety nets, the United States has a budget deficit that is a higher proportion of its gross national product and that the

incoming President now proposes to increase it.

A monetarist would now forecast, if as seems likely Mr Carter has his way with the Congress and with the Federal Reserve Board, that the rate of inflation in the United States would be showing clear and unwelcome signs of rising again during 1978. The steady weakness of the dollar in the weeks since Mr Carter won his election may be taken as evidence that the foreign exchange markets are taking the same view. As a consequence the pound is deriving some relative benefit, but this is an insignificant consideration compared to the future health of the most important currency in the world.

The danger is that Mr Carter will be tempted to follow the course of economic policy adopted in the United Kingdom under the last Government. The notion that the maximum use should be made of human and other resources by stimulating economic activity, while keeping inflationary pressures in control through formal or informal policies for prices and incomes, has its obvious political attractions. The lesson of the last decade, however, must surely be that economic policy can only work when it is applied in all its aspects, fiscal, monetary and prices and incomes, in the same direction. If fiscal and monetary policy are set on expansion, prices and incomes policy is too frail a reed to contain inflation, the more so in the United States which is an infinitely larger and more dispersed economy than that of the United Kingdom.

HE CONTRADICTIONS THAT FACE MR RICHARD

Richard has certainly got less than he hoped out of the meeting of the five front-line presidents in Lusaka. They have not forced a British presence in Rhodesia as an element in a transitional regime, or as a sufficient surety for calling off guerrilla war. They have not elected it either, so Mr Richard's dilemma between the lines may be that the Presidents will give him the end of a thread still to follow through the jungle when he meets them today.

But some such endorsement is badly essential to moving Mr Richard off the line taken last week by Mr van der Byl, his foreign minister. The Presidents' decision that what will end the civil war will be the end of colonialism, oppression and apartheid will rather give Mr Richard more arguments for rejecting British proposals, even if the meeting, given the composition of its members, was a necessary

condition. Much more important is the decision openly to back the Patriotic Front, the force led by Mr Nkomo and Mugabe (with Mr Nkomo increasingly like Mr Nkomo's prisoner). They have in effect been nominated as official Zimbabwe negotiating successors, body, and the British are specifically merged with them in their decisions. They have made the demand for an end to apartheid, the biggest inroads into Kissinger proposals—pres-

ing for a shorter transition, an interim government to be dominated by Africans before elections, African control of the security forces, a small (if any) role for a British chairman, and proceedings against those responsible for the illegal regime since 1965.

It would seem therefore that President Nyerere will in effect have to advise Mr Richard that what he can agree with Messrs Mugabe and Nkomo will be acceptable to the front-line presidents, and that it is up to Mr Richard to ensure that what has been agreed by him with Messrs Mugabe and Nkomo becomes acceptable to Mr Smith—and Mr Vorster.

This complicates any efforts at mediation. Quite apart from Mr Smith's reaction, it will almost certainly not be acceptable to Bishop Muzorewa and Mr Sithole (who claims he leads the Zanu faction and not Mr Mugabe). The indications are that if an election were held among the Rhodesian blacks immediately Bishop Muzorewa would win handsomely over Mr Nkomo's candidates. The Bishop may well see in the Lusaka communiqué an open warning to his followers to change sides for their own future good, which he is liable to resent as interference with internal Zimbabwean affairs and an effort by Mr Nkomo to save his political skin by unfeigned means. This will be very useful to Mr Smith's arguments, whether or not it frightens the Bishop's supporters

into abandoning him, and he into joining the Patriotic Front.

Mr Smith can now indeed feel that this anathematizing of the Bishop from Lusaka opens a rift into which his own tame African independence party can be inserted, to garner African support for the Kissinger plan which at least (he can say) would postpone inter-African violence. He can add that Lusaka has now removed any chance of an effective British role—to reassure whites of a fair deal as well as Africans that change is irreversible—whether or not he withdrew his opposition to it.

It is hard to follow Mr Richard's reaction that the communiqué should please Mr Vorster. In effect it now requires him to put pressure on Mr Smith not just to accept modifications to the Kissinger plan (which Mr Vorster could justify to his restive constituents) but to accept a plan for the rather prompt replacement of himself and his colleagues by a Patriotic Front government with some white participation. Mr Richard must in fact ask Mr Vorster to go much further than Dr Kissinger did, without Dr Kissinger's special leverage.

It is difficult to think that these complications can be sorted out in the eight days left before the conference is reconvened, at which the Patriotic Front will claim solely to represent the Africans. Indeed, the basic decisions can now only be taken in Africa.

avid Wood

the EEC, not quite holeheartedly

one of the least amiable of our political statesmen to take for granted that things British are necessarily best, and that it has been aided by providence that we sacrifice our ease to send donations carrying the word from minister to peoples who live in need and ignorance. For that on, correction seems obligatory on the part of the extreme right-wing, comment about the blishment on the commanding heights in the European Economic Community of two of the ablest our politicians: Mr Anthony Clark as President of the Council Ministers for six months, and Mr Jenkins as President of the Commission in Brussels for an

at four years. Any will, it has been expansively stated, give to the Community a critical hour the stronger leadership and direction it so badly needs to resolve the most immediate items on sight, cut Communism, and if need be emulate Moses part the English Channel to Western Europe into the raised land. I ask leave to doubt it so much because they can claim to be the most remote and by politicians of their generation rather because they start from a European governmental base of European commitments. Perhaps the best service they render, he might now train upon, will be to recognize that, at least, many of their own Labour argues high and low, to a Euro-destiny, and to serve as ionaries from there to here.

ter all, Mr Crosland belongs, Mr Jenkins used to belong, to a government and a party that has been able to make up its mind about membership of the EEC, he would be a fool of a poli-

clian within the original Six who did not recognize that, in 1966 Sir Harold Wilson and the Cabinet turned towards membership only as an expedient to wriggle off the book of devaluation and when they returned to power in 1974 they resorted for party reasons to the gamble of a referendum to confirm British membership.

Like Sir Harold, Mr Callaghan as Prime Minister shows his judgement in sending to meetings of the Council of Ministers a succession of ministers such as Mr John Silkin, Mr Tony Benn, and Mr Peter Shore, who are hostile to nearly every idea and ideal of Europeanism. The Commission, Mr Callaghan makes no attempt to avoid the impression that Britain is in Europe for what he can get, above all a food subsidy of £1.5m every day of the year. More than that: when the Labour delegation to the European Parliament elected a leader, the Europeanist Mr Michael Stewart, they chose a Tribune Mr John Prescott who would not touch the EEC with a barge-pole if he could help it.

No wonder Bonn bridled when Mr Jenkins tried to dictate a change in the choice of West Germany's Commissioner; no wonder he sat, *primus inter pares*, for the best part of a day and night last week to persuade his 12 fellow Commissioners to accept his judgement of how portfolios should be matched to men. No wonder Mr Crosland asks himself how long it will be before he succeeds Mr Healey at the Treasury, knowing there can be no change until his six months' tenure of the Council Presidency and the conference of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers in June come felicitously to an end. Apart from their personal commitment to Europeanism, their leadership must be limited by the Labour Government's demonstrable halfheartedness about membership, except where the Cabinet sees a clear political and financial advantage.

Nor can it be said that the House of Commons shows much awareness of Britain's membership of the EEC. Today MPs return from the Christmas adjournment, and the day's first business will be one of the rare debates about the EEC's impact on Britain. Several debates

one after the other, in fact, starting with developments in the Community between May and October, 1976, and moving on to Commission documents dealing with credit institutions, banking legislation, and a European export bank. There will be a painfully thin attendance, and the discussions will be sustained by a platoon of specialists in Community affairs.

Now it is true that Sir Harold Wilson, Mr Heath and Mr Callaghan, in turn as Prime Ministers, have kept their pledge to make regular reports to the House on the meetings of Council of Ministers and Heads of Government. A Minister of State from the Foreign Office conscientiously announces the Council's programme for the following month. There are consultations with the Houses to scrutinize EEC secondary legislation (so called), although the reports attract little or no political readership. Very occasionally, as today, the committee's reports and warnings lead to a brief debate in the Commons.

Yet it is all little better than a facade, a casual gesture in the direction of Europe. Consider the *Hansard* for December 23 starting at column 911. Mr Foot, the anti-Europeanist Leader of the House, was announcing business for the week ahead, and for today he reeled off a list of European Commission documents by meaningless reference numbers. He chose a day for the debates, incidentally, when the European Parliament would be assembling in Luxembourg, and most specialists on EEC affairs would certainly be out of the country. More to the point, though, Mr Foot came to the House without knowing what the EEC legislation now brought under question was that he had put down for debate.

In short, on the anniversary of four years of EEC membership, Government business managers in the two Houses, for all the virtues of our parliamentary system, have yet to find a procedure whereby influence Government action flowing out of the Commission over which Mr Jenkins now presides. In more ways than one Europeanism at Westminster is only skin deep. The necessary adjustment to European membership has still to be made. Whatever it may be, it has not the smack of strong European leadership now or for some time.

Policy on pension schemes

From Lord Byers

Sir, Sir Alastair Pilkington makes a sensible and important plea for greater unity in policy making between the major parties (*The Times*, January 4) and he cites the Social Security Pensions legislation which proceeded through both Houses without a hostile vote on any of its major stages.

The unity which was then established is now being jeopardized. To some extent this is, as Sir Alastair says, because of the rather unclear terms of the White Paper on trade union participation in the running of occupational schemes, a position which I believe will, in the end, have to be modified. To an even greater extent, this unified approach is being undermined by the determination of the Government to continue its policy of restricting the improvements of occupational pension benefits above the absolute minimum required to contract out, unless the cost is set against the pay limits, and its insistence that no pensioner until the next stage of the pay policy is upon us in July of this year.

Companies find it virtually impossible to carry out meaningful consultations and negotiations when they do not know whether or not they will be able to implement the policy thus agreed. Above all, the time factor in bringing the new Act into operation is now crucial. The date for this is April 1978 in theory but in practice decision will have to be made well before the end of 1977.

Lord Allen of Abbeydale, Chairman of the Occupational Pensions Board, was reported in *The Times* on December 2 as predicting the possibility of complete chaos if more haste were not made in deciding whether or not to contract out of the new state scheme.

Sir Donald Serrent and others made the same point most forcibly in your columns on December 22.

If a statement of government policy is to be delayed until the next year, the Government has no right to ask the Government how they expect negotiations to be completed and applications of companies to contract out to be processed by the OPB in time for the schemes to function from April 1978.

If there should be any delay we risk the deprivation, once again, of hundreds of thousands of future pensioners who will get that lesser provision in retirement which delay inevitably involves.

All that is required from the Government is an announcement now to the effect that any improvements in benefits agreed in the coming months will be able to be implemented from an agreed date onwards. This does not constitute a breach of the Government's word, but it would allow negotiations and negotiations to proceed to a positive conclusion.

Yours faithfully,
BYERS,
Chairman,
Company Pensions Information Centre,
7 Old Park Lane, W1,
January 4.

25 years on

From Mr Hugh Dykes, MP for Harrow, East (Conservative)

Sir, In congratulating you on the excellent persuasiveness of the message in your leading article "25 Years on" (December 31), an overwhelming number of observers and commentators would nowadays presumably accept the logic of the call in the last paragraph for a government to move away from emphasis on security to opportunity in the years ahead.

At the same time, and linking up with the interesting recent correspondence in your columns on Germany's success, this need not—indeed, should not—mean an inevitable deterioration in the nation's social capital if lasting economic recovery was quick enough. Quite the reverse; in fact Germany's economic advance has allowed her to create a very elaborate social welfare structure, which is broadly accepted by all sectors of society.

Indeed, in so far as the Conservative Party, as the alternative contender for office, knows the realities of the message, its best combination of philosophies to produce both practical economic success and constructive social harmony must surely be that which would unite the basic elements of modern pragmatic politics. Namely, in so far as these labels have meaning, to be substantially "right wing" on economic policies, but relatively "left wing" on social policies.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH DYKES,
House of Commons.

Christian names

From the Honorary Secretary, The Names Society

Sir, Mrs Brown (January 6) comments on the use of Elizabeth by readers of *The Times*. According to counts based on the Registrar General's Indexes of Births, the name lies in only 43rd position at the moment in England and Wales, though it is more popular in Scotland. Elizabeth was most used as a first name during the reign of Queen Victoria and it has steadily declined in popularity this century. As Mrs Brown's own figures suggest, however, it is a favourite middle name.

One of Elizabeth's many pet forms—Lisa—has recently been very fashionable, but the leading first names in the country as a whole are currently Claire, Sarah and Nicola. Stephen, Mark and Paul are the most popular boys' names.

Count made by Mrs Brown, Cleveland, Frs., or Michigan, shows that Elizabeth has recently been one of the top ten names for girls in the United States. The American preference at the moment seems to be for Jennifer. Amy and Sarah, with Michael, Jason and Matthew heading the boys' list. Yours sincerely,
LESLIE DUNKLING,
FOLDEN 1,
7 Arden Avenue,
Thames Ditton,
Surrey,
January 6.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Not too petty for a jury

From the Chairman of the Bar

Sir, All sections of the Bar with which I have been in touch would agree with your leader of January 6: they had already expressed to me almost identical views. One point, however, although touched upon seems to me not to have been made with sufficient emphasis: you express it as the belief that justice for the innocent defendant is more certain before a jury. . . . In my view it is more than a belief: it is an inevitable inference from certain facts.

Those facts are: that before a jury, the prosecution have to satisfy twelve, or after two hours ten, persons of the accused's guilt: before magistrates they only have to satisfy one and three; that most prosecutions rely to a considerable extent upon the evidence of police officers: few jurymen, if any of them, will ever have heard any police officer give evidence—often magistrates have heard the same officer giving evidence before; and that at every trial juries are specifically reminded by the judge of the burden of proof.

The inevitable inference from these facts is that, all other things being equal, and however fairly proceedings are conducted, it must be inherently less likely that the prosecution will establish the guilt of an accused person before a jury than before magistrates. The inevitable conclusion, therefore, is that if the Criminal Law Bill is enacted in its present form, the chances of an innocent person being convicted must be increased.

This, probably the most significant implication of the recommendations made by the James Committee, was not acknowledged in its Report. Would the Committee have made those recommendations had they drawn, and expressed, this inevitable conclusion? Ought those recommendations, particularly those affecting theft cases, to be implemented in the face of that conclusion? Surely not. Above all, how is

their proposals, and they often exercise it.

It is fair to add that most airlines believe that absence of agreed tariffs would result in chaos—for the public as well as our industry—bearing in mind the thousands of sales points and tens of thousands of fare combinations employed all round the world. But that is not the fundamental factor producing the requirement for the fares agreement.

Nor is it true to describe the airlines' trade association as a cartel when, as Mr Braidwood himself makes clear, it exercises no control over the volume of production of seats, a supply which is greatly exceeded demand—with a resulting bad effect upon the industry's financial results.

Yours faithfully,
H. E. MARKING,
Deputy Chairman,
British Airways Head Office,
PO Box 13,
Victoria Terminal,
Buckingham Palace Road, SW1.

The hereditary peerage

From Mr H. B. Brooks-Baker

Sir, We are very pleased and impressed by the great interest the world is showing in the letters written to you by Mr Fletcher-Cooke (January 4), and Sir Ian Moncreiffe of that ilk (January 7). Two of the greatest common enemies are the Royal family and the peerage. The respect the world has for these institutions is more than well documented, and it is also undeniably true, that this country's balance of payments has been added to substantially by them.

Sir Ian's suggestion that eminent elderly people be granted peerages from time to time is as sensible as the idea of an immensely distinguished life peer being raised to an hereditary peerage. The aristocracy in this country is different from most other monarchies, including Scandinavia, in that England's is almost one hundred per cent intact, and is functioning politically and socially whereas in Scandinavia there is little more left than the pomp and ceremony, and in the case of Sweden, most of that was eradicated last year. If you compare the English system with that of France, which has not had a monarch in 107 years, one sees

the difference between night and day. Though the French are probably the greatest admirers in the world of the Royal family, and of the peerage, the French system generally, France's nobility has no political importance or clearly defined duties, and though the Comte de Paris is no longer forced to live in exile, only his peers have his ear.

We will see as the Jubilee year progresses, that Queen Elizabeth and the House of Windsor are almost as important to the rest of the world as to Great Britain. But if these institutions are to remain healthy and purposeful, they must not be allowed to wither. Life peerages substitute their place, but are they a substitute? We must never forget, that on what this country does today, the future of many throughout the world will depend, but pomp without power is ridiculous, and rather pathetic.

Yours truly,
H. B. BROOKS-BAKER,
Manufacturing Director, Debre's Peasree Limited,
Neville House,
Kington upon Thames,
Surrey,
January 8.

Politics in abeyance

From Mr Frank Hodgson

Sir, Your leading article (January 5), "Politics in Abeyance" is too comfortable by half: in your own phrase, unparadoxically complacent. While politics in abeyance, the IRA still, after seven years, goes on murdering and maiming our fellow countrymen and our soldiers.

It has long been manifest—how long, a Lord, how long—that there will be no peace in Ulster until the IRA is defeated.

The other recourse, of yielding victory to the Queen's enemies, is not this time open to Her Majesty's Government, since the loyalists are there to prevent it.

That may account for the greater antipathy shown in Government-inspired opinion towards the loyalists than towards the IRA, over all these years of IRA barbarism inflicted upon our fellow countrymen in Ulster.

As our local regiment, the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, is about to proceed to Northern Ireland, our local newspaper, the *Western Morning News* (January 4) speeds our men on their way to their thankless but dangerous duty with the comment: "All the British public wants to do about Ulster is to try to forget it." Is there no honour left in England?

The unbearable reproach of our dereliction of Ulster rests not upon the people of the United Kingdom but upon the UK Government. The Army in Northern Ireland does its sorry duty by the Government. When will the Government do its own duty? When will the Government, having always had the means, at long last muster the will to defeat the IRA?

Delenda est IRA.
Yours faithfully,
FRANK HODGSON,
7 Bickham Road,
Plymouth.

'Both sides of industry'

From Mr J. Weston Smith

Sir, On reading the Chancellor's letter to the IMF what first sprang to my eye was Mr Healey's use of the expression "both sides of industry". This deplorable phrase seems to have wedged itself into the English language; at best it is jargon, which too many politicians know no better than to use; at worst it is incitement to conflict.

An enterprise consists of men and women who, banded together, are determined on success and reward within that enterprise, there cannot be "two sides". In saying this I am wholly sympathetic to the views expressed by Mr Steel so vigorously in his party broadcast, and so, I suspect, are the majority of my fellow citizens, who work in, and contribute to, our industrial wealth.

No less disturbing in my view is Mr Healey's assertion—expressed in the same letter—that "industry" has appeared on the scene of the Government's "medium-term strategy".

When the Chancellor of the Exchequer uses the word "industry" that does he mean—the whole of the wealth-creating process influenced, owned and/or controlled by the people of these islands? Does he embrace manufacturing, wholesaling, retailing, trading and commerce of all kinds, including the financial institutions, the banks, insurance companies, shipping and transport enterprises, the supply of energy in all its forms and, not least, overseas companies—largely owned by United Kingdom shareholders—whose managers help to sell our exports and whose dividends swell our currency reserves and contribute to balancing our trade deficit, and if he does mean all these many and several enterprises and the people within them, what process of consultation did he use in order to ascertain whether they understood and approve of his industrial strategy?

The people to whom I have referred will be much affected by the IMF loan and the conditions attached thereto and they are constantly exhorted by her Majesty's ministers to endorse "devolution", "consultation" and "participation". The irony of Mr Healey's statement on their behalf will surely not escape them?

Yours faithfully,
J. WESTON SMITH,
Chairman of Morgan Crucible Company,
88 Petty France, SW1,
January 6.

Cost of fish marketing

From Mr M. I. Lipman

Sir, Some two years ago, you were kind enough to publish a letter from me on the subject of fish prices and distribution as compared with, say, beef. Since then I have carried on a desultory correspondence with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, which culminated in their passing the matter over to the Ministry of Prices and Consumer Protection who had ordered an inquiry on this subject, and whose report published in May, 1976, was scathing and referred to prices in the shops being up to four times that of the wholesale price.

Since then, neither the Prices or Food Ministries have uttered a word on the subject, in spite of the report's denial of the claim by the fish trade as quoted to me by the Food Ministry on March 16, 1976, that fish being perishable "demands a sophisticated distribution system the cost of which accounts for the margins in question". If the multiplicity of competing (?) traders at Grimsby and Billingsgate is "sophisticated" by any standard, then heaven help us.

Now that the whole fisheries question is overshadowed by the Iceland debacle followed by the new 200 mile declaration, surely as we, the public, are underwriting the security of the fishing zones through the heavy expense of frigates and Nimrods, it behoves the whole fish trade from dock to the local fish shop, to put its house in order, failing which, perhaps we should turn for a model to the Milk Marketing Board, which collects an equally perishable product from tens of thousands of farms daily, processes it and delivers it at our doorstep daily at a total distribution cost of approximately half that applicable in the present "sophisticated" system which now threatens us in put fish on a par with fillet steak in price, and thus equally beyond the purse of 95 per cent of our people.

I am, Sir, yours, etc.,
M. I. LIPMAN,
The Village Green,
Newick, Sussex,
January 4.

Napoleon's coats

From Mr David Gilmour

Sir, There seems to be a lot of unnecessary fuss about the Duke of Wellington's purchase of the coat Napoleon is supposed to have worn at the Battle of Waterloo. Napoleon had a great many military coats. According to Duron, the Grand Marshal, he bought a new one every three months and the 1811 inventory of the Imperial wardrobe shows that he possessed 16 in current use at that time.

Quite a few were admittedly lost or burnt in Russia the following year, but there is still a large selection in French hands. So I cannot see why your correspondent Mr Fowler (December 14) thinks the coat ought to be given back to the French, especially as some of the things Napoleon removed from other countries are still in France (Veronese's *Marriage of Cana*, for example).

In any case, Bonapartists should be heartened by the fact that the coat has passed from the family of the man who actually wanted to execute Napoleon (ie Marshal Blucher) into the hands of the descendant of the man who, when asked whom he considered the greatest general of the age, replied: "In this age, in past ages, in any age, Napoleon."

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GILMOUR,
8 Rue du Foia,
Paris 75003.

The proposed assemblies

From Mr William M. Moss

Sir, May an English Tory comment on Mr Ancram's letter (December 24).

Of course the wish of the people of Scotland to have greater say in the running of their affairs is understood. But the English, too, have their national pride, even if it may seem to have been hidden from view in recent years. What Mr Ancram calls "the unfairness which may arise" when Scotland has its own assembly is not something which can be swept under the carpet or "adjusted as required".

This greater say in its own affairs to which Scotland aspires must be exchanged for a lesser say in the domestic affairs of England. It is quite monstrous that we should be asked to support an assembly with all these years of IRA barbarism inflicted upon our fellow countrymen in Ulster.

As our local regiment, the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, is about to proceed to Northern Ireland, our local newspaper, the *Western Morning News* (January 4) speeds our men on their way to their thankless but dangerous duty with the comment: "All the British public wants to do about Ulster is to try to forget it." Is there no honour left in England?

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Delenda est IRA.
Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM M. MOSS,
Keworth House,
High Street,
Kegworth, Near Derby.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

A diplomatic touch for the men of FO, page 16

BSC abandons its break-even goal but aims to limit loss to £70m

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent

British Steel Corporation has abandoned its objective of breaking even this year.

With market conditions deteriorating the state steel undertaking is preparing to trim its production in the final three months of the financial year which ends in March, although the hope is that losses can be kept to under £70m.

Last year BSC recorded a post-tax loss of £25m, and Sir Charles Villiers, its new chairman, who took over from Sir Monty Flimston in September, had hoped that the corporation would have achieved a break-even position and possibly made a small profit this year.

Over the first six months the corporation managed to recover substantially from the previous year, and reduce the loss to £48m over the half year, after charging interest of £75m and exchange losses of £19m.

Since then it has been improving output and overcoming most of the production problems faced in the early part of the year.

Until the end of November it had been operating at around the break-even point, but an output of 23 million tonnes of crude steel would now be required for the corporation to reach it.

Production seems likely to be about 21 million tonnes, and there is little prospect of market demand improving significantly until the final quarter of this year.

A loss of around £70m appears to be the worst that the corporation executives expect. The loss would be a loss of between £50m and £60m. The feeling is that the break-even objective could be achieved by implementing severe cutbacks in maintenance and other work, but the corporation believes it is more important to be in a strong position to exploit the upturn in demand when it appears.

Against the background of worsening market conditions, BSC is planning to reduce pro-

Post Office forecasts 'significant profits'

By Malcolm Brown

Sir William Ryland, chairman of the Post Office, said yesterday that there would be a "significant" increase in the corporation's profits this year.

But Sir William, who was replying to an assertion by Mr Tom Jackson, general secretary of the Union of Post Office Workers, that phone profits alone this year would total around £400m, declined to be drawn into specifying any figure.

Speaking on BBC Radio's *The World This Week*, Sir William said it was too early to give definite figures, but profits would be significantly better than those for 1975-76.

In 1975-76 the corporation made a profit of £147.9m; telecommunications achieved a total of £14.7m and Giro, remittance services and data processing all made small contributions. But posts lost £9.2m during the year.

Sir William said yesterday: "Only a short time ago we were being criticized for being inefficient and making losses. We are now saying that we need to invest in this country, and we have to find the money from our own resources."

In spite of Sir William's caution, there have been indications for some months that the corporation would make what by the standards of the last few years is a remarkably high profit. By the end of the financial year it appears probable that the overall profit of the corporation will be between £350m and £400m, the share being brought in from telephones.

Posts are expected to break even or possibly make a small loss, while Giro and the other services will again contribute a small profit by the corporation will go a long way to helping it meet the new financial targets the Government has imposed. The telecommunications division must earn for the three years 1976-77 to 1978-79 a real rate of return of 6 per cent.

Reaction to a high profit from the corporation is certain to be mixed. There is relief that the Post Office is now back to profitability after a series of disastrous years, but critics suggest that the size of the profits is a surprise even to the PO.

New approach on worker-directors

By Maurice Corina
Industrial Editor

Enabling legislation for a more flexible approach in encouraging the introduction of workers' democracy throughout British industry may be forced on the Government. This means rejecting the majority view of Lord Bullock's Committee of Inquiry into Industrial Democracy that union-elected employee directors should share unitary boardroom power with shareholders' nominees and a quota of independent directors.

Ministers are apparently deeply disturbed by the vehemence of the opposition which industrialists have privately pledged ahead of publication of the full Bullock report later this month.

The Confederation of British Industry and the British Institute of Management, and a host of other representative organizations, are about to launch a potentially divisive campaign of "unrelenting opposition" to any Government-imposed form of industrial democracy.

Opinion within Whitehall, where a separate study has been in progress on how to promote employee-participation in the state-owned industries and public services, has swung towards introducing only some form of background legislation that stimulates experiments, and recognizes the need for tailoring participation to individual corporate situations.

This recognizes the deep divisions within the Bullock Committee as well as the varying responses obtained in the Government's own consultations in the public sector.

Just how deeply split is the Bullock Committee, which gives a minority recommendation for single-tier boards based on the 2x1x1 formula, is indicated by the strength of the minority views of its industrialist members. These come from Mr Jack Callard, the ex-ICI chairman who now heads British Home Stores, and Mr Norman Biggs, the former Esso and Williams & Glyn's Bank chairman.

They claim that most of industry, middle management, and even some powerful trade unions do not want the appointment of worker-directors as proposed by the union representatives and academics represented on the committee.

Of this combination of interests, their minority report

Deep divisions within the Bullock Committee and among industrial leaders may force legislation designed to tailor participation to individual corporate situations

says starkly: "It would be exceedingly unwise for the nation to disregard the practical realism and accept the theories of those who see this debate as a means of changing the structure of society in this country and who would seek to bring the boards of the private sector under union control."

Scarier account, they argue, has been taken by their Bullock colleagues, the realities of British industry, industry has a fragmented union movement, and a large sector of the workforce do not belong to unions. The unions believe deeply in collective bargaining and were divided about all the problems involved in power-sharing within private industry.

The minority report's strongest words are reserved for the proposal that worker democracy has to be effected only through trade unions.

One of the great strengths of political democracy, they declare, is that every citizen has equal rights and no one need belong to either a party or an organization to exercise their rights.

"It would make a mockery of democracy as we know it to limit the rights of employees in any system of industrial democracy to those who have opted for collective representation through a trade union," they say.

The minority members argue that unions have nothing to fear from other systems of representation for employees, whether union-organized or not. Strong unions with united membership could surely not fear a procedure embracing non-union representatives.

Intriguingly, the minority report is not opposed to worker

secret ballots by employees in resolving how employee representation systems should be introduced. Employee nominees on a supervisory board should constitute less than half the membership. All employees, and not just union members, should be concerned in any elections to either Employee Councils or the subsequently established Supervisory Boards.

Both Sir Jack Callard and Mr Norman Biggs are proposing to explain their opposition to the Bullock majority views at a special conference being called on January 28 by the British Institute of Management.

The BIM, for its part, does not believe the Government is right to propose legislation on industrial democracy.

Mr Roy Close, the BIM's director general, comments: "To judge from everything we hear about a majority report, a minority report, and a dissenting member of the majority, it is clear that views on this important question remain sharply divided."

This, he adds, reinforced the need for a flexible approach to employee-participation to meet the particular circumstances and needs of companies. The original terms of reference for the Bullock team were heavily biased in the first place.

The Government should pay due regard to the needs and circumstances of different industries by pursuing a flexible approach, allowing a settling in period for participative systems that can be negotiated to reflect individual needs.

The CBI view is that industry must get on with its own work on participation in its own way "without the threat of ill-conceived legislation". Lord Watkinson, the president, claims that to enforce board membership by delegates from the shop floor, and even worse, trade union nominees from outside companies was to stand the whole system of participation on its head.

He has told CBI members who are anxious about the Bullock report: "You will be shocked, alarmed, and angered when you see it."

The Government is proposing to make a statement when the Bullock report is released. At the same time, it will indicate its thoughts for policy in the public sector with White Paper planned for nationalized industries.

Beleaguered cities look to Mr Carter for relief

Many of America's biggest cities are still in desperate financial difficulties, with problems too great to solve by themselves.

Detroit announced last week that it was almost bankrupt, and Mayor Deane of New York is to try to raise local taxes again and make further spending cuts to reduce the city's next budget deficit of at least \$583m (£344m).

The city was rescued from the brink of financial disaster, just over a year ago. It has stumbled forward, but the threat of a new crisis is ever present.

Acute financial problems in cities could undermine the slowly rising level of confidence in the nation's economic prospects and the efforts being made in Washington to strengthen the economy.

Many of the biggest cities in north-eastern United States have imposed tax levels so high that employers have moved elsewhere.

They confront huge and growing social welfare bills, with New York City in a particularly poor situation, as a Federal Reserve Bank report says.

It states that the city's social welfare expenditures are 14 times what they were 20 years ago. The number of young and old people in the city has swelled so much that less than half the residents are of working age.

The number of people needing public assistance has grown since 1951 from 339,000 to 598,000, and manufacturing employment in the city is 55 per cent of the level of two decades ago.

Mr Beame and other mayors are doing all they can to balance their budgets but are stripping their cities of their attractiveness and vitality as a result.

They are hoping that President-elect Carter will come to the rescue. He is likely to help, and has suggested that he recognizes the real problems, and more important, that he is aware of how these problems can weaken the country as a whole.

Swift action is needed to avoid new crises. It can take several forms, most notably a full restructuring of social welfare, involving much greater direct federal Government payments.

In addition, the Government could assume a greater share of the education, hospital, roads and public transportation costs of cities.

But financing such schemes will generate budget difficulties, and because of this it is no exaggeration to say that financial problems of many of the great American cities rank among the most important matters Mr Carter will have to deal with when he takes over the Presidency on January 20.

Frank Vogl

Crucial talks on sterling balances

By Peter Norman

Leading Western central bankers meet in Basle today for what should prove to be the crucial meeting to solve the problem of Britain's overseas sterling balances.

The question was discussed by the bankers at their session in Basle last month and later by a group of experts in Paris before Christmas. As a result of these discussions it is expected that a formal agreement between the Group of Ten richest industrial nations and Switzerland will be asked to approve a "safety net" for sterling.

This would probably consist of a stand-by credit arrangement through which the Bank for International Settlements in Basle, on which the Bank of England could draw to cover withdrawals of foreign held sterling from London. In Europe, at least the alternative of a "fund" of the sterling balances is regarded as a very unlikely outcome to this month's meeting.

One leading European central banker, who has been closely involved with the discussions, told me that he felt today's meeting could reach approximate agreement and that a final settlement might be reached in Basle later.

However, an official silence from Basle this week would not necessarily indicate that the talks had broken down.

The British Government wants a solution to the problem of the sterling balances because it believes that the pound's weakness over the autumn was exacerbated by the rapid decline in sterling assets held in London by official overseas creditors.

Although European central bankers, at least, have tended to think that the balance problem was more a symptom than a root cause of the pound's troubles, there has been a remarkable willingness to help Britain set up a safety net, led by the West German, Swiss and Dutch central banks.

These three, with the United States and Japan, can be expected to shoulder the main financial burden of the operation.

More exports now charged in foreign currencies

By Our Industrial Staff

Just over 20 per cent of exports are invoiced in foreign currencies, according to an analysis of commercial invoices lodged with the Customs and Excise.

The analysis, documented in the latest issue of *Trade and Industry*, covered selected export shipments in April, 1976. From a sample of some 2,700 invoices it emerged that the figure was made up of 12 per cent of the invoices in the importing country's own currency and 8 per cent in American dollars.

There were few examples of invoicing in foreign currencies other than dollars or those of the importing countries.

The journal says that it seems likely that the overall proportion of foreign currency invoicing had been rising relatively to the additional level suggested a proportion of 10 to 15 per cent—and suggests that the decline in the sterling exchange rate since the spring may have led to a further increase in the proportion.

The Confederation of British Industry is organizing a seminar next month to explain to businessmen the choice of currencies available for export invoicing.

Brazil and Colombia seek accord on coffee prices

Bogota, Jan 9.—Brazil and Colombia, two of the world's biggest coffee producers, are calling for a special session of the International Coffee Council to look into ways of stabilizing world coffee prices, a Colombian government spokesman said yesterday.

He said the agreement was reached in an exchange of messages in the last few days between Colombian President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen and Brazilian President Ernesto Geisel.

The text of the exchanges, initiated by President Lopez on Monday, were released here today.

In his message to President Geisel, Senior Lopez said because of the unmet felt by many countries over rising coffee prices it was essential to "find a satisfactory joint solution to the problem."

President Geisel replied that he agreed on the need to "guarantee the tranquillity of the coffee market," but he did not think the problem could be solved by producer countries alone.

The Brazilian leader said the best solution would be to convene a special session of the council.

No date was mentioned for the proposed special session.

US ready to consider funding operation

From Our United States Economics Correspondent
Washington, Jan 9

United States government officials here also suggested at the weekend that the chances for an agreement being reached in Basle tomorrow on the problem of sterling balances were good.

However, sources here, unlike the European experts, believe that some sort of "funding" operation is being considered. This would involve giving official foreign holders of ster-

'No pay code breach' by C & W board

Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, said yesterday there could be no breach of the Government's pay policy in his examination of salaries of five executive directors of the state-owned Cable and Wireless company.

It was revealed in *The Times* on Friday that the five protesting directors had agreed to resign consideration of certain proposals.

Salaries of the directors (four are paid £10,330 and one £12,830 a year) had to be looked at in the context of the pay of nationalized industry board members as a whole, Mr Varley explained.

He has yet to discuss the still secret pay proposals put forward by Cable and Wireless's chairman, Mr Ted Short,

Mr Blumenthal says Carter measures may help trading partners

From Frank Vogl
Washington, Jan 9

Mr Michael Blumenthal, the American Treasury Secretary-designate, stated today that he hopes the new package of reflationary measures proposed by Mr Carter, the President-elect, would be coordinated with actions taken by America's chief trading partners to strengthen their own domestic economies.

Mr Blumenthal stressed in a television interview today that the Carter Administration fully recognized the degree to which the United States lives in an economically inter-related world, and that the Administration will be determined to "do its very best" to coordinate and cooperate with foreign countries in economic affairs.

He noted that the precise numbers involved in the new reflationary programme had still to be finalized. The \$30,000m two-year programme already announced should be seen as just a first step, he said, "and only a first step" towards strengthening the economy, increasing business confidence and creating incentives to investment.

The future Treasury Secretary considered that without this programme it was unlikely that unemployment this year would fall below 7 to 7.5 per cent from the current level of around 8 per cent.

The new programme should reduce the jobless rate by about 1 per cent and, so, with luck, take it close to 6.5 per cent by the end of the year. In addition, and more important, he said the programme would ensure a further reduction of unemployment in 1978.

Mr Blumenthal said the programme involved some moderate tax cuts which should be viewed as only the start of

There's one London bank that really understands Eastern Europe

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TOTAL ASSETS EXCEED £1,200,000,000

Kelsey Industries Limited			
Statistics from the Report of the Chairman, Mr J. G. Moss, and the Accounts for the 12 months to 30 September, 1976.			
	1975/76	1974/75	
	£	£	
Turnover	12,150,591	12,123,000	
Direct exports	3,991,894	3,625,700	
Profit before tax	1,653,957	978,600	
Profit after tax	775,883	452,540	
Dividends	111,216	101,136	
	(23.17%)	(21.07%)	
Earnings per share	20.2p	11.8p	
Retained trading profits	664,667	351,404	
Depreciation	228,608	167,273	
Net assets	4,413,070	3,648,649	

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Lending rate 14 pc	
The Bank of England's minimum lending rate is reduced by one quarter percentage point this week to 14 per cent. The following are the results of Friday's Treasury Bill Tender:	
Applications	£1,122.7m
Bids at 14.25%	£200m
Prev. week 14.5%	Received 20%
Average rate 14.25%	Prev. 14.5%
Next Friday 15.00m	Next 15.00m

Management

A diplomatic touch for the men at the Foreign Office

The public service tends to be regarded as a fair game for criticism. But relatively few of the people who enjoy this pastime appear to have any detailed understanding of how the service works or how, specifically, it could be improved.

One sector of the public service which is likely to be in the news before long is the Diplomatic Service. For the past 12 months it has had the benefit of being examined by the Central Policy Review Staff, the "Think Tank", a task which was due to be completed about now, though it is not clear how much of the Think Tank's report will be made public.

But how does one most effectively manage an organization like the Diplomatic Service which has 58 departments in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London, and nearly 220 establishments of various shapes and sizes throughout the world?

Such a degree of dispersal is of itself enough to create substantial management problems. But to these must be added problems created by the abstract nature of the work.

How does one, for example, measure the efficiency of the political reporting from Washington? And how is that to be assessed against the work of another mission elsewhere which may be mainly concerned with promoting overseas trade, or deterring the nationalization of British assets, or, perhaps, just keeping an eye on the use made of British aid?

The problem is a difficult one which has to be tackled from a number of directions, and one strand in the FCO's monitoring and control of its operations is through the Diplomatic Service Inspectorate, which describes itself as "in-house consultants".

The Inspectorate consists of 35 people from within the diplomatic service. They include five teams, each of three people, who tour the embassies and other overseas establishments. There are also two people permanently involved in inspecting the departments of the FCO in London.

The role of the Inspectorate is defined as being to carry out a continuous review of the operations of the Diplomatic Service both at home and abroad to ensure that its resources are being used efficiently and for the right purposes.

What this means is that every establishment abroad and every department at home is subjected to a detailed examination roughly every three years.

The members of the overseas teams, who stay in the Inspectorate for about two years, before resuming their normal careers in diplomacy, make three tours a year, each of about 11 weeks, with periods of debriefing and briefing in between.

The inspections appear to have the tone of a cooperative examination between the inspectors and the staff of the mission, rather than an intimidating exposure of fault by stern interrogators. A station will

normally know some months in advance when the inspectors are to arrive.

The inspectors will discuss their tentative conclusions as they are being formulated, with the staff of the mission concerned and this can lead to a modification of views on both sides, so that the lengthy report finally made by the inspectors will usually contain a lot of material on which agreement has already been achieved.

The finance department has its own internal audit system, and although the Inspectorate's search for efficiency in the missions clearly has financial implications, cash saving does not appear to be a key purpose. Rather the main objective appears to be to achieve "financial purpose".

Thus, among the first tasks of the inspectors when being briefed in London and on arrival at a mission will be to assess what are the main British interests and the essential purpose of the mission, and it will be against those purposes that the adequacy of the resources and the use made of them will be assessed.

The inspectors' reports tend to be characterized by great attention to detail. For example, they could recommend that changing circumstances require a political embassy to be strengthened or reduced in strength. They may find that procedures for handling top secret material are inadequate.

But equally, they may feel that some typewriters could usefully be returned to store, or

that the Spanish and German language cassettes should be replaced by French, or similar trivialities.

The inspectors do not normally assess the cost implications of their recommendations, although there was one recent occasion in which they did so and concluded that they would lead to savings in one country alone of about £400,000 a year, a sum which would go a long way towards matching the costs of the Inspectorate.

However, the general philosophy of the Inspectorate has tended to be to try to make a fairly tight assessment of the facilities required and to assume that the necessary cash resources would be made available. There are some indications that the advent of cash limits is now leading to a modification of that philosophy.

There appear to be two related reasons for placing at least a question mark against the Inspectorate's effectiveness. The first is that because the members of the Inspectorate are also members of the Diplomatic Service they are likely to share many of its assumptions.

The second is that the inspectors are people of middling seniority, most of them, no doubt, with hopes of further advancement in the service, and their period in the Inspectorate might well be a rather delicate stage of their careers.

Neither of these factors seems likely to lead to the inspections being unduly robust. RC

Training films learn to communicate with international audiences

The finals of the Management Training Film and Video competition organized by the British Industrial and Scientific Film Association and the British Institute of Management saw Video Arts' *Meetings*, *Bloody Meetings* take both the trophy presented by the Imperial Group and one of the two certificates given by the BIM; and the other certificate also went to Video Arts for their *Manhunt*.

Video Arts' approach to training, using John Cleese's remarkable comic talent, is by now well-known and appreciated. *Manhunt* shows him in three management interview situations, making three different types of mistakes.

The title of *Meetings* is self-explanatory and the prize-winning purpose is to make meetings shorter, more productive and more satisfying.

Group, Mr John Pile, when he presented the trophy, spoke of an aspect of training films that is often overlooked—their export potential. The market for training films is expanding—an implicit tribute, he suggested, to the quality of our management, as well as a measure of the quality of our films.

Milbank Films, which earlier this year made *Your House in Order?* (Industrial accidents are caused by untidiness and slack working) and *Man in the Middle* (the supervisor, sandwiched between management and shop stewards and balancing the claims of production and safety) have come up now with a package of two films on coaching for the Training Services Agency of the Manpower Services Commission.

I Owe You shows a manager being introduced by an enlight-

ened colleague to the need for developing the abilities of subordinates; *Received with Interest*, to be viewed after work based on the accompanying leader's guide, shows reformed managers putting his lessons into practice. There are too many managers in need of the message and the package could do them a lot of good.

Wimpey presumably had export potential well in mind when they made *Focus on Training*. This is not a training film, but a picture of the elaborate facilities that Wimpey provides in their training organization.

It is mainly designed for the company's own training purposes, but the organization also undertakes outside assignments. In the light of its overseas representation this suits an echo of Mr Pile's reference to the African head of the largest company in one African

country he had visited recently who is sending his colleague concerned with training to a course in Imperial's training school.

Training is increasingly international and films are no small part of it.

Meetings, *Bloody Meetings* and *Manhunt*, both 29 minutes; £245 each. Hire: two days, £38.50; seven days, £48.50.

Your House in Order?, 23 minutes; and *Man in the Middle*, 22 minutes; £150 each. Hire: three days, £20; seven days, £25.

I Owe You, 25 minutes; £250. Received with Interest, 14 minutes; £150. Complete package, £315. Hire: three days, £35; seven days, £45.

Focus on Training, 22 minutes. Free hire.

Eynon Smart

Edited by Rodney Cowton

Computers to the aid of distribution planners

At its simplest, the problem of the effective distribution of a company's products is one of balancing transport costs against quality of service. But, in practice, such are the many options available, most large organizations have found that their real world distribution is a complex computer exercise in operational research.

Not surprisingly, the computing service companies have developed a range of programs designed to assist in the analysis and planning of transport and distribution systems. Representatives from more than 50 companies attended a recent seminar on the subject at the Milton Keynes headquarters of Seicon Computer Services, the BP-owned bureau.

For Trebor Sharps, confectionery manufacturers, Seicon has developed a national distribution model. This consists of a suite of programs which represent the movement and handling of sweets from factories, through "break-bulk" depots, to distribution depots and then on to customers.

Depending on the average size of their orders, customers may receive deliveries either from distribution depots or from "break-bulk" depots.

Using the model, questions such as "How many depots are needed?" "Where should they be?" "What will their throughput be?" and "Where are the country should they serve?" can be answered.

Included in the overall model is a local delivery cost model. This calculates the cost per unit of serving groups of customers from all the depots that can practically serve them.

It evaluates the economics of journeys of more than one day and goes on to select the type of journey which will give the cheapest unit delivery cost.

To validate the model the company's operations in 1975 were analysed. Every aspect of the model's solution was compared with actual company practice and discrepancies were accounted for.

Trebor Sharps and Seicon are now using the model to identify areas where savings can be made and to evaluate the costs of implementation.

Another example of distribution modelling software is the Pathfinder package developed by British Road Services, which is used to estimate the number and sizes of vehicles needed for a delivery fleet.

Using Ordnance Survey grid data to define a delivery area, information on quantities of goods and the drops to be made can be specified in either of two ways, depending on the detail required.

For fleet sizing calculations the total volume of goods to be delivered to each square of the total number of drops in it are specified. For vehicle routing, the location, quantity to be delivered, service level and restricted delivery times are specified for each customer.

This information is used together with data on the roads in the area, expected vehicle speeds and work-study or other standards to produce a detailed set of routes.

As well as fleet sizing and route planning, the Pathfinder package has been applied to distribution audits, the selection of additional or replacement vehicles, depot location, evaluating time restrictions, analysing levels of customer service, assessing the economics of trips longer than one day, evaluating productivity negotiations and the effects of seasonal factors, training and planning collections.

The Pathfinder system and the Trebor Sharps model represent two approaches to distribution planning—the packaged system (in this case developed by a transport company and marketed by the computer bureau) and the tailored solution. Both offer fast calculation and the ability to test a wide range of options.

In cases where a mathematical statement of the problem is required but where standard packages do not meet mathematical programming codes, such as Seicon's "Seiconic", can be used. For a national chain of clothing retailers, for example, a detailed study of inter-depot trucking operations, using the Seiconic code, has been completed.

Here, the objectives were to determine the optimum size and location of the vehicle fleet and to produce route schedules in response to specified levels of demand.

A mathematical model was constructed which was able to select the best combination of containers, articulated trailers and freightliners. Simultaneously, it determined how each container or trailer should be packed and its path should take to its destination.

To complete the picture the model also represents the movement of empty containers and trailers which are necessary to ensure the correct balance of resources at each depot.

The sort of questions that are answered include "How much of each type of goods should I make at each factory?" To which depot should I be sent and which depots should supply which customers? How should I schedule my factories or individual machines to satisfy demand and maintain my stock levels? Do I need all my factories or depots? If not, which should I close? How much money will I save and what will be the cost in terms of flexibility?

Kenneth Owen

Fresh light on air fare comparisons

From Mr A. J. Burkart

Sir, Your Air Correspondent (December 9) pertinently asks, "Are air fares within Europe too high?" It may be that they are, and no doubt the public consultation arranged for this week by the Civil Aviation Authority will throw light on the matter. But a direct comparison of European air fares with United States fares on the basis of similar lengths of journey oversimplifies the case.

Your Air Correspondent compared the fares between 10 city pairs in the United States with those between 10 European city pairs. For example, the fare New York-Philadelphia, a distance of 89 miles, is £14.11, whereas the fare Brussels-Amsterdam, 98 miles, is as much as £24.73.

However, the combined populations of New York and Philadelphia are more than 16 million, those of Brussels and Amsterdam barely two million. Demand for air services in green cities is determined by many factors but in part at least by the size of the two populations.

There is really nothing surprising in finding a greater frequency of service, more traffic and hence lower fares in the American city pairs cited by your Air Correspondent whose populations total 50 million, than in the 10 European city pairs with a combined population of 24 million.

Further, the United States experience is all domestic; the European all international. This is not merely a matter of who fixes the fares—the Civil Aeronautics Board in the United States, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) in the European cases.

There must be more in common to encourage air travel in the American cases than in the European ones. The economic and political system that is likely to be in force in Europe, for example, there is likely to be greater community of interest between Pittsburgh and Denver (1,300 miles, £67.75) than between London

and Bucharest (1,300 miles, £143.45); or again between Boston and Denver (1,763 miles, £85.81) than between London and Rhodes (1,735 miles, £179.97).

Thirdly, air transport in Europe has developed in a distinctly different way from the American way. In particular, leisure travel by air in Europe has produced the air-inclusive tour (package holiday) which has not been paralleled in the United States. In terms of passengers, more than half the total intra-European air traffic is now carried on non-scheduled (charter) services. Most of this non-scheduled traffic is holiday-oriented, attracted by the lower fares and prices that are made possible by non-scheduled operation.

As a result, the fares on scheduled services, especially on holiday routes, are relatively high, and the frequency of flights is low—and in some cases, as from Scandinavia to the east coast of Spain, scheduled services no longer run at all. The single daily service London-Rhodes cited by your Air Correspondent is supplemented in the holiday season by a significant number of non-scheduled services.

Thus, the big part played by non-scheduled air services in the growth of intra-European air traffic invalidates a simple comparison between the levels of scheduled fares in the United States and those in force in Europe.

There may well be scope for lower air fares in Europe, but the way to lower fares may not be the American way. At a time when the American commentators are themselves becoming highly critical of their own system it is to be hoped that due weight will be given to the distinctive developments of European civil aviation.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully, A. J. BURKART, Senior Lecturer in Tourism, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XH

Safety needs and the manning of coasters

From Mr R. J. M. Grey

Sir, Mr Bell (December 14) in pointing out the considerable differences between the manning levels on board small British and Danish coasters has doubtless put his finger upon the principal reason for the decline in the British-owned short sea fleet. But in suggesting, however obliquely, that the Danish levels be taken as a norm, he does a considerable disservice to the cause of safety at sea.

There are, for instance, grave doubts about the ability of a wholly mechanically untrained ship's master to maintain a 600 hp diesel engine and its auxiliaries. The coasts in a gale in the middle of the North Sea is not, after all, comparable to the lorry broken down on the motorway. An 800-ton ship may be small beer in the Channel seaways but it can be the cause of all manner of catastrophe if it is being navigated by an exhausted master or even his wife.

A pilot colleague tells me of recently boarding a small Danish coaster inbound to London from the Elbe. The sole occupants of this vessel were the Master, who was in an advanced stage of exhaustion having had 36 hours of heavy weather after leaving his berth in Hamburg, and two Moroccan seamen, both completely without experience and violently seasick.

Neither could steer and these wretched men had been employed in watching small pieces of coloured paper stuck on the compass to indicate that the

vessel was keeping her course. Their orders were to "call the skipper if anything gets too close".

Perhaps the United Kingdom manning standards do err on the side of righteousness. But I would suggest that it is up to the United Kingdom Government to press for an international level of manning for these small ships to ensure British competitiveness rather than courting danger à la Danes.

Yours faithfully, R. J. M. GREY, Master Maritime, MNI, Managing Editor, Fairplay International Shipping Weekly, 1 Pudding Lane, EC3, December 15.

Kilo-sterling

From Mr Jim Friday

Sir, With a view to assisting both metrication and the British self-respect, perhaps the Government should change the name of the pound sterling to the kilo sterling. By my rough reckoning, that would put the exchange rate back at around one kilo-£554. Surely this would be a huge psychological boost to us British in these troubled times.

Yours faithfully, JIM FRIDAY, Lecturer, Department of History, University of Papua New Guinea, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, December 14.

Baden-Württemberg: beehive state

News last week that unemployment in West Germany had again topped the million mark in December was a pointed reminder that Europe's strongest economy still has a long way to go in eradicating the consequences of the recession of 1974 and 1975.

It is a pity that the global figure that exercised the minds of politicians and newspaper editors, that one of the 11 Federal states appears well on the way to returning to full employment.

Baden-Württemberg, which occupies the south-western corner of the Federal Republic, likes to think of itself as a model for the rest of the country. In economic terms there is something to be said for this boast.

In the 25 years since its creation in May, 1952, the state of Baden-Württemberg has enjoyed a steady and relatively crisis-free economic growth.

At the end of last month only 3.2 per cent of its workforce were unemployed against a national average of 4.8 per cent while unemployment in West Germany as a whole fell by just under 11 per cent between the end of December, 1975 and end-December, 1976, the rate of decline in Baden-Württemberg was at 21.6 per cent—almost double this amount.

At first sight the state's record of economic growth and its relative immunity to unemployment are surprising. Although Baden-Württemberg is Germany's third largest state, it is not an area naturally endowed with raw materials or sources of energy nor (with the exception of the area adjoining the Rhine) was it at the time of industrializa-

tion in the 19th century an area blessed with easy access to large markets.

Yet today Baden-Württemberg can claim to have an almost optimal industry-based economic structure. In contrast to West Germany as a whole, there is a healthy mixture of large, medium sized and small companies scattered throughout the state.

As West Germany is still one of those places where it is possible for the individual with a bright idea or a good product to make—and keep—a large amount of money, the production of small and medium firms is probably a healthy indicator of the economic wellbeing of the state.

The industry of the inhabitants is legendary, and like their conservatism often a subject of mockery in other parts of Germany. Furthermore, the diligence of Germany's "little" westerners can be backed up by statistics. No less than 47 per cent of the state's 5.15 million inhabitants are gainfully employed, against a national average of only 42.7 per cent.

Two companies in particular are of prime importance for the economy of Baden-Württemberg. They are Daimler-Benz, the world-renowned car and commercial vehicle manufacturer, and Bosch, the electrical and motor components con-

Intervention in the Scotch whisky industry

From Mr A. K. Bergius

Sir, Mr Ronald Kersha (December 30) claims to detect an increasing body of opinion among distillers in favour of government participation in the affairs of the Scotch whisky industry. He implies that the view is gaining ground among that section of the industry represented by The Distillers Company, but adduces evidence for his claim beyond the word of an unnamed "expert".

As chairman of one of the largest independent Scotch whisky companies, I can state categorically that this is not our view. Government interference is a root cause of most of our problems and we wish to see far less of it. I am convinced that it is the attitude of the industry, rather than the attitude of the Government, which is the cause of the problems in the industry and I can escape the conclusion that Kersha's "expert" represents a tiny proportion of the trade. Export prices cannot be allowed to increase in the way suggested by this "expert" long as home trade prices are depressed, as too great a disparity between export and home prices only encourages parallel imports which in turn disrupts orderly marketing in our important overseas markets.

Certainly, at home there is keen competition and profit margins are slender, but prices are not kept down because of the attitude of one company. Excessive taxation on Scotch whisky, a factor in the industry's decline, is a different matter. Other drinks which are more highly taxed make it extremely hazardous to increase their prices without shrinking the total market for Scotch whisky.

It would be extremely heartening to a hard-pressed industry to see a strengthening of this problem at Treasury and the development of a more sensible and cooperative attitude for the future.

It was unfortunate that Kersha omitted to mention a 20 per cent increase in export prices introduced on January 1—only two days after his article was published—although the increase had been reported *The Times* 12 days earlier.

Yours faithfully, ADAM K. BERGIUS, Chairman, Wm Teacher & Sons Ltd, 51 Enoch Square, Glasgow G1 4BZ.

Standards of new homes

From Mr G. P. Ewins

Sir, I was disturbed to read parts of a report of a Lease based firm of chartered surveyors (December 31). I certainly agree that builders are having to "build down to price" and that a high price of homes is a result of a building with a lack of care and responsibility. However, it came as a surprise to me, and I'm sure to many other readers, to learn that buyers of such houses should not rely on National House Building Council protection.

I purchased a new house a few months ago and obtained a degree of satisfaction that if my house ever proved not to be up to standard I could always turn to the NHBC. Now, it seems, this may not be so. Just what does the NHBC stand for?

It is a pity that the article offered no advice to private purchasers exactly how they should "make a stand against poor buildings". Could the NHBC play more of a role in watchdog in a situation which at the moment is a full accomplice to people wishing to buy a new home?

Yours faithfully, G. P. EWINS, 32 Hurrebrook Gardens, Plymouth, Devon, January 1.

Regional industry in Europe

area blessed with easy access to large markets.

Yet today Baden-Württemberg can claim to have an almost optimal industry-based economic structure. In contrast to West Germany as a whole, there is a healthy mixture of large, medium sized and small companies scattered throughout the state.

The industry of the inhabitants is legendary, and like their conservatism often a subject of mockery in other parts of Germany. Furthermore, the diligence of Germany's "little" westerners can be backed up by statistics. No less than 47 per cent of the state's 5.15 million inhabitants are gainfully employed, against a national average of only 42.7 per cent.

Two companies in particular are of prime importance for the economy of Baden-Württemberg. They are Daimler-Benz, the world-renowned car and commercial vehicle manufacturer, and Bosch, the electrical and motor components con-

President of West Germany once said the inhabitants of Baden-Württemberg drew their character from a blend of speculative imagination on the one hand and a rather pedantic accountant-like thirst for accuracy on the other. It has been argued that the combination of these qualities has behind the continuing success of Baden-Württemberg's two major companies.

Daimler-Benz, for example was alone among the West German car manufacturers in being able to shrug off the crisis. Last year turnover at production rose 10 per cent and earnings 21 per cent, expected to top the already excellent results of 1975.

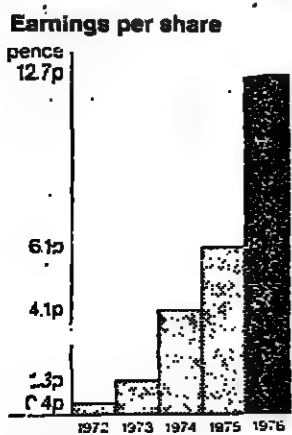
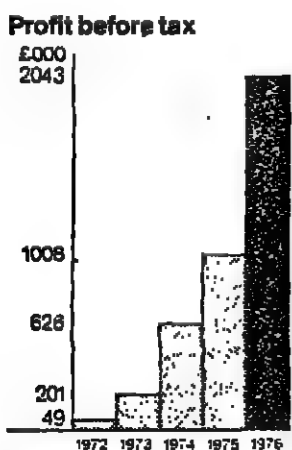
The key role played by such "blue chip" companies in the state economy cannot be overestimated. Although Daimler-Benz has long since expanded beyond the state borders, more than 70 per cent of its German workforce is still employed in Baden-Württemberg. Every twenty worker employed there works for Daimler, and the company provides more than 5 per cent of the wages earned in the state, and accounts for 50 per cent industrial turnover in the south-west.

Daimler's success has underpinned the economic wellbeing of countless component manufacturers. It has been estimated that 40 per cent of Baden-Württemberg, of which by far the largest is Bosch, is dependent on the state around 60 per cent of its West German workforce in the state and it is thought that about half of its component suppliers lie within the boundaries of Baden-Württemberg.

Peter Norma

Redman Heenan International Limited

"The group achieved a much more balanced performance than in the past"



Extracts from the Review by the Chairman Mr Angus Murray

- 6 The improvement in profits now reported reflects... a continuation of benefits derived from better marketing, more efficient organisation and tighter control of working capital.
- 6 Overall the group achieved a much more balanced performance than in the past with previous loss makers returning to profits, marginal performers showing improvement and profit makers maintaining their position under the conditions which prevailed.
- 6 The diversity of engineering activities within the group has proved to be a source of strength in 1976 and should continue to stand it in good stead for the future.
- 6 Increased investment in both product development and capital equipment has been planned for 1977.
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Results in brief for the year ended 30th September	1976	1975
Turnover	28,889	23,757
Profit before tax and extraordinary items	2,043	1,008
Dividends per Ordinary share (gross)	2.5p	1.54p
Earnings per Ordinary share	12.7p	6.1p
Shareholders' funds	7,210	5,023
Net assets per Ordinary share	46.0p	35.4p
Borrowings as a percentage of shareholders' funds	17.3%	55.9%

To: The Secretary, Redman Heenan International Limited, PO Box 29, Shrub Hill Road, Worcester WR4 9EQ.

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The highest proportion of Businessmen earning more than £5,000 or more than £7,000 a year.

Sources: NRS 1975/76, BMRC 1973.

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Applicants must have a retail background, preferably in the textile industry, and a minimum of 5 years' experience in an administrative capacity. A knowledge of the textile industry would be an advantage. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the trust, including the management of the staff and the financial affairs of the trust.

Closing date for applications: 28th January, 1977.

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Our affiliated schools in Cairo will need several teachers of English as a Foreign Language in March to replace teachers whose contracts are ending. The schools are in the suburbs of Cairo, specialise in teaching English and employ about 20 teachers each. Experience is not essential, but there are career opportunities for experienced teachers. Candidates must be free from 21st January to follow an intensive training course in London.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Optimism about gilts likely to be short-term

The sight of gilt prices surging ahead on Friday in response to the Government's stock successes and the M.L.B. cut must have been the source of some satisfaction for analysts at Kemp-Gee & Co.

For the firm in its latest monthly review had disagreed strongly with the widely held opinion that the gilt market's recovery of recent weeks was unlikely to go much further.

Kemp-Gee is in fact particularly bullish about gilts on a view of six months or so, while remaining distinctly dubious about the equally widely supported view that prospects will be much brighter in the second half of the year thanks to North Sea oil benefits.

"That the latter months of this year may look good—at least within the narrow confines of the gilt market—is quite possible but we prefer at this time to see a hypothesis only," the firm says.

Meanwhile, it says nothing fundamental has happened in the United Kingdom nor under the present government is any fundamental change in prospect such as to hold out any hope

of a change in the relative decline of the economy which has been proceeding over the greater part of the post-war era. Pointing out that what changes in policy there have been represent only the reluctant reactions of a government forced against its inclinations to take some cognizance of the

Brokers' views

facts of the real world, Kemp-Gee says: "It is easy to see why we are unwilling to commit ourselves to a market view which goes beyond a few months."

Over in equities, Fannure Gordon & Co see little sign of any decisive turning point in prices. Pointing out that their Cyclical Indicators that there may be some scope for a short term correction following the recent strong gains, Fannure however suggests that any fall should be limited by the favourable trend in interest rates.

At the same time it declares: "Until the stock market sees both inflation and the balance of payments under control there is little likelihood of a sustained upward movement in equities prices."

Profit-takers pounced on GEC on Friday after the long-awaited announcement of the company's capital reconstruction plans but de Zoete & Bevan strongly recommends purchases of the shares.

De Zoete says that the 1977-78 income of investors who remain in the Floating Rate Capital Notes 1986 will increase from 6p to an estimated 10.63p gross. Stripping out the notes at par the shares will yield nearly a quarter more than before and the relative rating will fall to a discount on the market average prospective p/e ratio.

Anticipating a technical reaction when the reconstruction was announced—the shares had risen 21 per cent more than the market in the previous three months—de Zoete says that the shares will work in the opposite direction when dealings start in the notes. Then some holders may see the

notes to reinvest in the ordinary. Expecting GEC's ambitious plans for overseas expansion to enhance the shares' attraction de Zoete says that it believes the company's record and prospects justify a premium rating.

Wood, Mackenzie stands on neutral ground in its latest Bank Annual. With a relatively unfavourable outlook for earnings next year it suggests advantage should be taken to lighten holdings on any marked relative strength on the lead up to the 1976 results from London clearers.

At the same time, however, it says that after the sustained weakness of the shares over the past three years a plausible case can now be made for rebuilding portfolios should the sector relative fall back below a level of approximately 80 per cent of the FTA 50 Index from the recent mid-80s level.

Wood, Mackenzie reckons Barclays currently offers the greatest attractions of the "Big Four" while National and Commercial is preferred to Scottish rival Bank of Scotland.

Richard Allen

Kelsey's chief pleased but not satisfied

Many chairmen would be satisfied with a jump in pre-tax profits from £978,600 to a peak £1,653,957; but not Mr John Moss of Kelsey Industries.

In his annual review for the year to September 30, he is naturally pleased with it. However he adds quickly that the gain reflects inflation, and does little more than show modest real progress on 1973's profits of £889,702.

Nor does he minimize special factors. Among them were the dry winter and exceptional summer for the contracting company; and soaring metal values and the slide in sterling for the solders business.

Finally reorganization has now brought the economies expected, particularly in overheads.

At half time the chairman found it impossible to say what the financial year would bring. Beyond orders were then below capacity in all divisions.

But then business picked up and Kelsey made more in the second half year than in the first. Exports and overseas accounted for half the sales of manufactured goods into more than 100 countries in all five continents.

Mr Moss says he is no better equipped to forecast than at this time last year.

He adds that order books are still short. Much depends on customers' prosperity. Growing electronics imports from the Far East and the massive cuts planned in telephone equipment could hurt the solder business.

Happy, the balance sheet is strong and ungaraged. Kelsey makes and sells solder, soldering and audio accessories, sealants and mastic compounds. It is also an industrial roofing and insulation contractor.

Brentnall Beard big push from abroad

Leading United Kingdom insurance broker Brentnall Beard (Holdings) shows in its annual report that 60 per cent of the £603,000 pre-tax profit for 1976, announced a month ago, was earned abroad.

Mr Fred Beard, chairman, says that the group's international growth has come chiefly from Canada, Singapore and Malaysia. A new outlet in the United States has also made a profitable start. This company, Brentnall Beard Inc., was set up two months before the September 30 year-end and no figures have been included.

The underwriting agency produced higher profits for the 1973 account than expected. While the 1974 account is not likely to be as good as 1973's, a "satisfactory" result is still foreseen.

Ward White jubilant as it returns to the seven figure profit league

After a million pound step into profits from losses in the half year to June 30 the Ward White footwear and engineering group has "returned to the seven figure profit league". So says Mr Philip Burch, managing director.

Shoe slump and dear money pulled down the pre-tax profits from £1,780 to £1,320 in 1974 and in the six months to June 30, 1975, they vanished, with losses of £64,000 appearing instead. But the second half year saw the group turn the corner.

The latest half year to June 30 saw profits of £437,000 and it is with these in mind that Mr Birch now talks of continuing second half recovery and seven figure profits.

Unemployment, pay curbs and inflation may cut the amount of money spent on boots and shoes "but Ward White is in a good position to profit from even a reduced market".

At half time the group's sweeping gains were put down to streamlining, and growth abroad. At home business was still bleak and Mr George McWaters talked of imports and slump.

But at the weekend Mr Birch was able to tell John White, director of footwear sales at Highgate, Northamptonshire: "You have all the components of a good selling year".

Erskine House deal

Erskine House Investment Trust has signed a conditional agreement to buy Scotia Bureaux. It runs a bureau de change in Central London. The price is £460,000 cash. Erskine's shares rose 2p to 40p.

Erskine's parent company shareholders for the half year to September 30 rose from £5,500 to £31,000. Earnings a share were 1.15p against 0.25p. The net asset value a share is 31.6p against 27.4p.

Refined new owns Redpath Syrup

Redpath Industries, in which Tate & Lyle is the major shareholder, has bought all the shares of Refined Syrups & Sugars of York, New York, formerly owned by Allen & Co and Denton Developments.

Redpath now owns 100 per cent of the issued capital. It is expected that Tate & Lyle will soon buy a direct equity interest in Refined Syrups from Redpath.

Back into form at Fred Cooper

"The group is not without prospects for the future" is the New Year message to shareholders in Frederick Cooper (Holdings) from chairman Mr F. E. Cooper with the accounts for the 16 months to July 31.

A change in Government policy last year towards telephone exchange building means the subsidiary Latham Manufacturing, lost more than

Armstrong acquisition

In an agreed deal worth about £100,000 Armstrong Equipment is to buy T. R. Williams (Wolverhampton). Williams is a general motor factor. The new owner will extend Armstrong's automotive components and equipment distribution network in the Midlands. The price is £71,000. Armstrong ordinary shares at 36 1/2p each. The vendors are taking cash and James Capel, Armstrong's broker, has placed the shares.

Cooper also suffered its first bad debt of any size when several building customers went into liquidation. The group made a trading loss for the first time ever.

But the paint coating plant has gone into its stride: output at CM Steel Mills has risen strongly. Elwell Sections is heading for a good year; and a licensing deal allowing Norton (International) to make the group's patented nylon conveyor belts in the United States should bring in good royalties.

So the directors are forward with confidence to this year and "fully expect a return to satisfactory profitability."

Cooper is an industrial holding group in steel, components and capital equipment.

Avenue Close jumps

Rent reversions from the West End Properties and the inclusion of the Truro Development for the first time swelled rental income to £252,000, up by 70 per cent to £252,000 in the half year to September 30. Property dealing profits were only £2,000 against £23,000, but pre-tax profits for the six months doubled to £141,000. These were before adding £56,000 of extraordinary items from the sale of two investment properties.

There is again no interim dividend. But the board expects the year's total to be bigger than the 2.06p gross of last year.

D C Thomson more than doubles

Income after tax at D. C. Thomson, 11 Dundee Road, printer and publisher, more than doubled to £2.85m in the year to March 31. Trading profits went up from £2.23m to £3.89m, and investment income was £1.85m against £1.72m. The dividend goes up from 27.16p gross to 29.76p.

MOYAL LONDON MUTUAL

Last year new annual premiums under life assurance policies with Society amounted to £7.1m (1976). New sums assured £170.6m net (£156m). Single premiums and considerations for annuities £297,000 (£180,000). In ordinary branch new annual premiums £2.88m (£2.66m) securing sums assured of £107.5m (£106m). In Industrial Branch new annual premiums £3.4m (£3.4m) and sums assured £63.1m (£56m). Special final bonus at £1.50 per cent extended for one year.

SUN LIFE ASSURANCE

New premium income last year £53.1m (£43.9m). Immediate annuity considerations £3.7m (£3.1m). Sums assured £986m (£906m).

LIFE ASSOC OF SCOTLAND

In 1976 new annual premiums more than £2.8m (£2.5m). Single premiums over £1.6m (£1.5m). Benefits secured by these premiums are set sums assured of over £80m (£71m) and net annuities of over £5.1m (£5.6m).

UK PROVIDENT

The United Kingdom Provident reports a record year for new business in 1976 with new premium income totalling £5.20m, an increase of 27 per cent over 1975. This secured total sums assured of £15.20m, an increase of 24 per cent. Annual premiums of

Freight report

Tanker rates crumbled immediately after the new year. Having conceded the cuts, though, owners were able to hold the slide as charterers attracted by the sharply lower rates showed more willingness to hire ships.

But from the highs of world scale 34 (£5.7 per tonne) immediately before the new year break, rates on vics from the Gulf to Europe dropped to worldscale 25 (£4.03) with the even larger vics accepting as low as worldscale 22 (£3.54).

These drops, while anticipated, were disappointing. However, the number of tankers available for work during the month turned out to be much higher than had been expected, and owners were perhaps fortunate to stabilize the rate structure so quickly.

Although there is little hope of a higher rate over the next few weeks—in fact, rates could drop a few more points—the situation could be worse. Certainly, there was much more demand for period cover with most of the American oil companies seeking ships right through to vice size over terms of 12 months to three years.

This has been quite a busy sector of the market and could become even more active.

Craig Howard

Thorn ends a week of second line stocks

TODAY, Interims—AVP Ind: Owen & Robinson, RFD GRF Second Great Northern Ind Wellman Eng. Finals—Brai: Grp, SGB Grp.

TOMORROW, Interims—Butte field-Harvey, City of London Brew, Hogg Robinson Grp International Timber John son-Richards (H & R), Jones Stroud Hldgs, Leaderflus Scottis: Homes Inv, Finals: Bakers: Household Stores, Ir Capital Trst, McMullen & Son Tollmachre & Cobbold Bre

Results this week

WEDNESDAY, Interims—Brown & Tawse, Grange Tr Hollis Grp, Raybeck,

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.
(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

BRITISH STOCKS									
Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume	Dividend	Yield
British Airways	100	+1.5	101.5	100.0	100.5	102.0	100	5.0	5.0%
British Petroleum	120	+2.0	122.0	120.0	121.0	123.0	120	6.0	5.0%
British Telecom	80	+1.0	81.0	80.0	80.5	81.5	80	4.0	5.0%
British Steel	60	+0.5	60.5	60.0	60.2	60.7	60	3.0	5.0%
British Sugar	40	+0.2	40.2	40.0	40.1	40.3	40	2.0	5.0%
British Waterways	30	+0.1	30.1	30.0	30.0	30.1	30	1.0	5.0%
British Airways	100	+1.5	101.5	100.0	100.5	102.0	100	5.0	5.0%
British Petroleum	120	+2.0	122.0	120.0	121.0	123.0	120	6.0	5.0%
British Telecom	80	+1.0	81.0	80.0	80.5	81.5	80	4.0	5.0%
British Steel	60	+0.5	60.5	60.0	60.2	60.7	60	3.0	5.0%
British Sugar	40	+0.2	40.2	40.0	40.1	40.3	40	2.0	5.0%
British Waterways	30	+0.1	30.1	30.0	30.0	30.1	30	1.0	5.0%
COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN									
Commonwealth Bank	150	+2.0	152.0	150.0	151.0	153.0	150	7.0	4.7%
Foreign Exchange	100	+1.0	101.0	100.0	100.5	101.5	100	5.0	5.0%
Commonwealth Bank	150	+2.0	152.0	150.0	151.0	153.0	150	7.0	4.7%
Foreign Exchange	100	+1.0	101.0	100.0	100.5	101.5	100	5.0	5.0%
LOCAL AUTHORITIES									
Local Authority A	20	+0.5	20.5	20.0	20.2	20.7	20	1.0	5.0%
Local Authority B	15	+0.2	15.2	15.0	15.1	15.3	15	0.5	3.3%
Local Authority C	10	+0.1	10.1	10.0	10.0	10.1	10	0.3	3.0%
Local Authority D	5	+0.05	5.05	5.00	5.00	5.05	5	0.1	2.0%
Local Authority E	3	+0.02	3.02	3.00	3.00	3.02	3	0.05	1.7%
Local Authority F	2	+0.01	2.01	2.00	2.00	2.01	2	0.02	1.0%
Local Authority G	1	+0.005	1.005	1.00	1.00	1.005	1	0.005	0.5%
Local Authority H	0.5	+0.002	0.502	0.50	0.50	0.502	0.5	0.002	0.4%
Local Authority I	0.2	+0.001	0.201	0.20	0.20	0.201	0.2	0.001	0.2%
Local Authority J	0.1	+0.0005	0.1005	0.10	0.10	0.1005	0.1	0.0005	0.1%
PROPERTY									
Property A	100	+1.0	101.0	100.0	100.5	101.5	100	5.0	5.0%
Property B	80	+0.8	80.8	80.0	80.4	81.2	80	4.0	5.0%
Property C	60	+0.6	60.6	60.0	60.3	60.9	60	3.0	5.0%
Property D	40	+0.4	40.4	40.0	40.2	40.6	40	2.0	5.0%
Property E	20	+0.2	20.2	20.0	20.1	20.3	20	1.0	5.0%
Property F	10	+0.1	10.1	10.0	10.0	10.1	10	0.5	5.0%
Property G	5	+0.05	5.05	5.00	5.00	5.05	5	0.2	4.0%
Property H	3	+0.03	3.03	3.00	3.00	3.03	3	0.1	3.3%
Property I	2	+0.02	2.02	2.00	2.00	2.02	2	0.05	2.5%
Property J	1	+0.01	1.01	1.00	1.00	1.01	1	0.02	2.0%
RUBBER									
Rubber A	100	+1.0	101.0	100.0	100.5	101.5	100	5.0	5.0%
Rubber B	80	+0.8	80.8	80.0	80.4	81.2	80	4.0	5.0%
Rubber C	60	+0.6	60.6	60.0	60.3	60.9	60	3.0	5.0%
Rubber D	40	+0.4	40.4	40.0	40.2	40.6	40	2.0	5.0%
Rubber E	20	+0.2	20.2	20.0	20.1	20.3	20	1.0	5.0%
Rubber F	10	+0.1	10.1	10.0	10.0	10.1	10	0.5	5.0%
Rubber G	5	+0.05	5.05	5.00	5.00	5.05	5	0.2	4.0%
Rubber H	3	+0.03	3.03	3.00	3.00	3.03	3	0.1	3.3%
Rubber I	2	+0.02	2.02	2.00	2.00	2.02	2	0.05	2.5%
Rubber J	1	+0.01	1.01	1.00	1.00	1.01	1	0.02	2.0%
TEA									
Tea A	100	+1.0	101.0	100.0	100.5	101.5	100	5.0	5.0%
Tea B	80	+0.8	80.8	80.0	80.4	81.2	80	4.0	5.0%
Tea C	60	+0.6	60.6	60.0	60.3	60.9	60	3.0	5.0%
Tea D	40	+0.4	40.4	40.0	40.2	40.6	40	2.0	5.0%
Tea E	20	+0.2	20.2	20.0	20.1	20.3	20	1.0	5.0%
Tea F	10	+0.1	10.1	10.0	10.0	10.1	10	0.5	5.0%
Tea G	5	+0.05	5.05	5.00	5.00	5.05	5	0.2	4.0%
Tea H	3	+0.03	3.03	3.00	3.00	3.03	3	0.1	3.3%
Tea I	2	+0.02	2.02	2.00	2.00	2.02	2	0.05	2.5%
Tea J	1	+0.01	1.01	1.00	1.00	1.01	1	0.02	2.0%
MISCELLANEOUS									
Miscellaneous A	100	+1.0	101.0	100.0	100.5	101.5	100	5.0	5.0%
Miscellaneous B	80	+0.8	80.8	80.0	80.4	81.2	80	4.0	5.0%
Miscellaneous C	60	+0.6	60.6	60.0	60.3	60.9	60	3.0	5.0%
Miscellaneous D	40	+0.4	40.4	40.0	40.2	40.6	40	2.0	5.0%
Miscellaneous E	20	+0.2	20.2	20.0	20.1	20.3	20	1.0	5.0%
Miscellaneous F	10	+0.1	10.1	10.0	10.0	10.1	10	0.5	5.0%
Miscellaneous G	5	+0.05	5.05	5.00	5.00	5.05	5	0.2	4.0%
Miscellaneous H	3	+0.03	3.03	3.00	3.00	3.03	3	0.1	3.3%
Miscellaneous I	2	+0.02	2.02	2.00	2.00	2.02	2	0.05	2.5%
Miscellaneous J	1	+0.01	1.01	1.00	1.00	1.01	1	0.02	2.0%
SHIPPING									
Shipping A	100	+1.0	101.0	100.0	100.5	101.5	100	5.0	5.0%
Shipping B	80	+0.8	80.8	80.0	80.4	81.2	80	4.0	5.0%
Shipping C	60	+0.6	60.6	60.0	60.3	60.9	60	3.0	5.0%
Shipping D	40	+0.4	40.4	40.0	40.2	40.6	40	2.0	5.0%
Shipping E	20	+0.2	20.2	20.0	20.1	20.3	20	1.0	5.0%
Shipping F	10	+0.1	10.1	10.0	10.0	10.1	10	0.5	5.0%
Shipping G	5	+0.05	5.05	5.00	5.00	5.05	5	0.2	4.0%
Shipping H	3	+0.03	3.03	3.00	3.00	3.03	3	0.1	3.3%
Shipping I	2	+0.02	2.02	2.00	2.00	2.02	2	0.05	2.5%
Shipping J	1	+0.01	1.01	1.00	1.00	1.01	1	0.02	2.0%
MINES									
Mines A	100	+1.0	101.0	100.0	100.5	101.5	100	5.0	5.0%
Mines B	80	+0.8	80.8	80.0	80.4	81.2	80	4.0	5.0%
Mines C	60	+0.6	60.6	60.0	60.3	60.9	60	3.0	5.0%
Mines D	40	+0.4	40.4	40.0	40.2	40.6	40	2.0	5.0%
Mines E	20	+0.2	20.2	20.0	20.1	20.3	20	1.0	5.0%
Mines F	10	+0.1	10.1	10.0	10.0	10.1	10	0.5	5.0%
Mines G	5	+0.05	5.05	5.00	5.00	5.05	5	0.2	4.0%
Mines H	3	+0.03	3.03	3.00	3.00	3.03	3	0.1	3.3%
Mines I	2	+0.02	2.02	2.00	2.00	2.02	2	0.05	2.5%
Mines J	1	+0.01	1.01	1.00	1.00	1.01	1	0.02	2.0%
FINANCIAL TRUSTS									
Financial Trusts A	100	+1.0	101.0	100.0	100.5	101.5	100	5.0	5.0%
Financial Trusts B	80	+0.8	80.8	80.0	80.4	81.2	80	4.0	5.0%
Financial Trusts C	60	+0.6	60.6	60.0	60.3	60.9	60	3.0	5.0%
Financial Trusts D	40	+0.4	40.4	40.0	40.2	40.6	40	2.0	5.0%
Financial Trusts E	20	+0.2	20.2	20.0	20.1	20.3	20	1.0	5.0%
Financial Trusts F	10	+0.1	10.1	10.0	10.0	10.1	10	0.5	5.0%
Financial Trusts G	5	+0.05	5.05	5.00	5.00	5.05	5	0.2	4.0%
Financial Trusts H	3	+0.03	3.03	3.00	3.00	3.03	3	0.1	3.3%
Financial Trusts I	2	+0.02	2.02	2.00	2.00	2.02	2	0.05	2.5%
Financial Trusts J	1	+0.01	1.01	1.00	1.00	1.01	1	0.02	2.0%
THE TIMES SHARE INDICES									
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